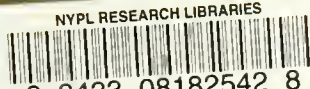


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# BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS

## DEDICATED

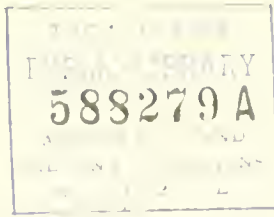
To the pioneers of this section of Kansas to whom too much credit cannot be given for undergoing the hardships and privations that were necessary in reclaiming that part of the Great American Desert now known as Barton County, Kansas, one of the richest and most prosperous sections of the country where the homes of the residents are surrounded by all that makes life worth living, where the best of educational and religious advantages are found and where the people are happy, progressive and contented.



GREAT BEND, KANSAS  
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## PREFACE

THE publication of this volume was made possible by the people of Barton county, who responded liberally when called upon for subscriptions to cover the cost of getting the data and printing the book. We undertook this work as the result of many requests that we publish a book of this kind. We realized the enormous amount of work that would be necessary before the book could be completed, and we also knew that it would require the outlay of considerable money. However, we began the work in the summer of 1911 and maintained solicitors on the road until the weather became such that the work had to be abandoned in the field until the month of March of this year—1912—when the work was again taken up and in so far as possible every land owner and old timer of the county was seen personally and given an opportunity to subscribe for a copy of the book. This work was continued until the first of August at which time we had a sufficient number of orders for the book to insure its publication, and while it has not been a profitable venture for us as far as the financial part is concerned, we have profited by the knowledge we have gained about the county's history, and have found that the people of the county appreciate the efforts of anybody when they are applied to the interest of progress and enterprise. If the reading of this volume gives pleasure to the old timers who helped to make the history contained herein, and the younger generation can get some inspiration and guidance from the stories of their fathers our efforts have not been in vain and we are satisfied with the work we have done.

TRIBUNE PUBLISHING CO.

We make grateful acknowledgement to the following for their aid in compiling these pages: B. B. Smyth, D. N. Heizer, "Inman's Tales of the Trail," the Newspapers of Barton County, and others who in any way contributed to the success of this work.

# BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS



## PREHISTORIC

### EARLIEST EXPLORATIONS

**T**HE first white man who ever saw the New Kansas was the Spaniard, Coronado (Francisco Velasquez de Coronado) from Mexico, who passed through in the winter of 1541-2 in search of the famous and mythical "Seven Cities of Cibola" in the mythical and unknown province of Quivera. He was accompanied by quite a small army of knights, common Spaniards, and Indians.

The object of the expedition, as was the main object of nearly all early expeditions, was the hope and expectation of finding gold in vast quantities.

Coronado's route lay, as well as can be learned from the most reliable accounts, in a general northeasterly direction, entering the territory near the Medicine Lodge river in

Barber County, thence northeasterly across the Arkansas somewhere near Wichita, thence still northeasterly to the Missouri river near the northern line of the State, or the 40th par-

allel of latitude, between which and the 30th parallel, and between the 95th and 97th degrees of longitude the province of Quivera was supposed to be.

After reaching his most northeasterly point, and meeting with nothing but hardships and disappointment, he returned somewhat the same way he came, though more to the westward.

This expedition having taken place before the settlement of Massachusetts, New York, or any of the Eastern States, it thus appears that Kansas has an earlier history than any of the eastern or northern states, if we may except the incursions made by Norsemen and Icelanders into Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia about the year 1,000, accounts of which, however, are not generally accepted.

The following little poem nicely tells the story and the change in the territory between that early day and 1879:

#### QUIVERA—KANSAS

1542

1879

Eugene F. Ware, in Ft. Scott Monitor

In the half forgotten era,  
With the avarice of old,  
Seeking cities that were told  
To be paved with solid gold,  
In the kingdom of Quivera—

Came the restless Coronado  
To the open Kansas plain;  
With his knights from sunny Spain,  
In an effort that, though vain,  
Thrilled with boldness and bravado.

League by league in aimless marching,  
 Knowing scarcely where or why,  
 Crossed they uplands drear and dry,  
 That an unprotected sky  
 Had for centuries been parching.

But their expectations, eager,  
 Found, instead of fruitful lands,  
 Shallow streams and shifting sands,  
 Where the buffalo in bands  
 Roamed o'er deserts dry and meager.

Back to scenes more trite, yet tragic,  
 Marched the knights with armored  
 steeds;  
 Not for them the quiet deeds;  
 Not for them to sow the seeds  
 From which empires grow like magic.

Never land so hunger stricken  
 Could a Latin race remould;  
 They could conquer heat or cold—  
 Die for glory or for gold—  
 But not make a desert quicken.

Thus Quivera was forsaken;  
 And the world forgot the place  
 Until centuries apace  
 Came the blue-eyed Saxon race,  
 And it bade the desert waken.

Sturdy are the Saxon faces,  
 As they move along in line;  
 Bright the rolling-cutters shine  
 Charging up the State's incline.

As an army storms a glacis.

Into loam the sand is melted,  
 And the blue grass takes the loam  
 Round about the prairie home,  
 And the locomotives roam  
 Over landscapes iron-belted.

Cities grow where stunted birches  
 Hugged the shallow water line,  
 And the deepening rivers twine,  
 Past the factory and mine,  
 Orchard slopes and sch. ols and churches.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have made the State of Kansas,  
 And today she stands complete;  
 First in freedom, first in wheat,  
 And her future years will meet  
 Ripened hopes and richer stanzas.

But if Coronado failed to discover the "Seven Cities," it was only because he started too soon. Those "seven cities with houses five stories high, and shops in which the workmen work in gold and silver exclusively," are yet to be found on that same identical ground. Those cities are growing. They have not yet reached the wealthy condition pictured out by those early Spaniards, in 1530 to 1540; but it is only a question of time. It remains for some later explorer to discover those rich cities. All the difficulty with Coronado was that he started out several hundred years too early. How long yet will it be before they are discovered?

## SUBSEQUENT EXPLORATIONS

THE first Americans to visit this region was Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike's exploring party on their way west to the Rocky Mountains in 1806, the same year that Aaron Burr was making such grand attempts to "make a settlement on the Washita" in the territory of Louisiana. They followed the trail of Spanish soldiers from the Pawnee village till they lost it among the "numerous buffalo paths between the Smoky and the Arkansaw."

Near midnight, on the 13th of October, 1806, the party reached the most northerly bend of the Arkansas river (section 32, 5 or 6 miles east of the city of Great Bend). The party arrived in a drenching rain, and remained two weeks to rest and recruit their animals and lay in a supply of meat. At 10 a. m., October 28th, Pike, with most of his party went west along the north bank of the river, and Lieut.-Col. Wilkinson, Pike's superior officer, with a small party, went down the river by boat. However, finding the river unnavigable, they abandoned their boats after going down five or six miles, and landed on the southwest bank of the river, near where the southwestern end

of the Ellinwood iron bridge now rests.—  
 From Pike's Expedition.

In 1812 this trail was first traveled with pack mules by McKnight's party.

In 1818 Mr. Bringier came up the Arkansas, and speaks of finding a "large body of blind coal, (anthracite), equal in quality to the Killenny, and by far the best he had seen in the United States, immediately on the bank of the Arkansas in latitude 38 deg. and longitude 98 deg." (about the place where Hutchinson now is.)

—Marcy's Rep. p. 158, citing Am. Jour. Sci., vol. 3, p. 80.

In 1820 Maj. Long's expedition passed through toward the west, the object, similarly to that of Lieut. Pike, being to find, if possible, the sources of the Red river of Louisiana.

On August 9th the expedition reached "the narrowest part of the valley, at the great bend of the Arkansas," (the same place that Lieut. Pike stopped, five or six miles east of the city of Great Bend), and finding good feed for their



horses, staid over the 10th.—Long's Expedition.

In 1821, a pack-mule train, sent out by Cooper & Bucknell of Boonville, Mo., went through to Santa Fe. This was the commencement of the commerce of the plains.

In 1825, the Santa Fe Trail, a wagon road from Independence, Mo., to Santa Fe, was established by Major Sibley, under an act of congress.—Annals of Kansas.

The trail from the east strikes the Arkansas river half a mile west of Ellinwood. Gregg's Commerce of the Prairies, page 313, has the following:

#### DISTANCE TABLE.

|                                     |    |     |
|-------------------------------------|----|-----|
| Independence, Mo., to—              |    |     |
| Round Grove.....                    | 35 | 35  |
| Narrows .....                       | 30 | 65  |
| 110 Mile Creek.....                 | 30 | 95  |
| Bridge Creek .....                  | 8  | 103 |
| Big John Spring.....                | 40 | 143 |
| Council Grove .....                 | 2  | 145 |
| Diamond Spring.....                 | 15 | 160 |
| Lost Spring .....                   | 15 | 175 |
| Cottonwood Creek .....              | 12 | 187 |
| Turkey Creek .....                  | 25 | 212 |
| Little Arkansas.....                | 17 | 229 |
| Cow Creek .....                     | 20 | 249 |
| Arkansas River (Ellinwood).....     | 16 | 265 |
| Walnut Creek .....                  | 8  | 273 |
| Ash Creek .....                     | 19 | 292 |
| Pawnee Fork .....                   | 6  | 298 |
| Coon Creek .....                    | 33 | 331 |
| Caches .....                        | 36 | 367 |
| Ford of Arkansas.....               | 20 | 387 |
| Sand Creek (leave Ark. R.).....     | 50 | 437 |
| Cimarron River .....                | 8  | 445 |
| Middle Spring (upper Cimarron)..... | 37 | 481 |
| Willow Bar .....                    | 26 | 507 |
| Upper Spring .....                  | 18 | 525 |
| Cold Spring (l've Cim. R.).....     | 5  | 530 |
| McNee's Creek .....                 | 25 | 555 |
| Rabbit-Ear Creek.....               | 20 | 575 |
| Round Mound .....                   | 8  | 583 |
| Rock Creek .....                    | 8  | 591 |
| Point of Rocks.....                 | 19 | 610 |
| Rio Colorado .....                  | 20 | 630 |
| Ocate .....                         | 6  | 636 |
| Santa Clara Spring.....             | 21 | 657 |
| Rio Mosa .....                      | 22 | 679 |
| Rio Gallinas (Vegas).....           | 20 | 699 |
| Ojo de Bernal (spring).....         | 17 | 716 |
| San Miguel .....                    | 6  | 722 |
| Pecos Village .....                 | 23 | 745 |
| Santa Fe .....                      | 25 | 770 |

In 1832, Washington Irving visited Kansas as a tourist, came to the Arkansas Valley, and gave this glowing account of its wilderness charms:

"After resuming our march we came in sight of the Arkansas. It presented a broad and rapid stream bordered by a beach of fine

sand, overgrown with willows and cottonwood trees. Beyond the river the eye wandered over a beautiful campaign country of flowery plains and sloping uplands, diversified by groves and clumps of trees and long screens of woodland; the whole wearing the aspect of complete and even ornamental cultivation, instead of native wilderness. \* \* \* "We were overshadowed by lofty trees, with straight, smooth trunks like stately columns; and as the glancing rays of the sun shone through the transparent leaves tinted with the many-colored hues of autumn, I was reminded of the effect of sunshine among the stained windows and clustering columns of a Gothic cathedral. Indeed, there is a grandeur in our spacious forests of the West that awaken in me the same feeling I experienced in these vast and venerable piles; and the sound of the wind sweeping through, supplies occasionally, the deep breathings of the organ.

"It was a bright, sunny morning with a pure, transparent atmosphere that seemed to bathe the very heart with gladness. Our march continued parallel with the Arkansas through a rich and varied country; sometimes we had to break our way through alluvial bottoms and matted with redundant vegetation, where the gigantic trees were entangled with grape vines hanging like cordage from their branches; sometimes we coasted along sluggish brooks, whose feebly trickling currents just served to link together a succession of glassy pools imbedded like mirrors in the quiet bosom of the forest, reflecting its autumnal foliage and patches of clear blue sky. Sometimes we scrambled up broken and rocky hills from the summit of which we had wide views, on one side over distant prairies, diversified by groves and forests, and on the other, ranging along a line of blue and shadowy hills, beyond the waters of the Arkansas."

In 1846, during the Mexican war, Gen Kearney and Col. Doniphan crossed to Santa Fe and stopped at the "Great Bend," August 18th. A Mormon battalion also went west with their families, and having their ox yokes tied across the bases of the oxen's horns after the primitive style pictured out as having been followed in the east 5,000 years ago. Francis Parkman, Jr., historian, met this "the first army to pass through the Valley" on his return from the Oregon Trail.—Parkman's Oregon Trail.

In 1849, during the California hegira, and subsequently, "the Great Bend" became a noted point on this most noted of highways. For a century, the Great Bend of the Arkansas has been known as the grand feeding ground of the buffalo, and favorite hunting and bloody battle ground of the Indian.

## SCOUTING ADVENTURES IN 1853

By James M. Fugate of Barton County

## INDIAN FIGHT AT THE ARKANSAS

**I**N April, 1853, young, vigorous, and never having seen as much of the world as generally fills the ambition of fellows in their early days of manhood, I engaged as teamster to drive through with a train of ox-wagons loaded with merchandise for the Santa Fe trade. We left La Fayette County, Missouri, the 24th day of April; our company comprised 45 men, armed with the old-fashioned long-range rifles, each, a Colt's navy revolver and bowie knife. Our teams numbered 210 head of cattle in all.

Kansas was then one vast wild plain, over which roving bands of hostile Indians were constantly cutting off emigrant and freight trains on their way to New Mexico and the Californias.

After leaving the settlement some distance, we overtook twelve men with three wagons, who had discovered there was danger ahead and were awaiting reinforcements before venturing farther. This increased our fighting force to 57 robust, well-armed men.

Our first serious trouble began after reaching the Arkansas Valley, at a point near where Hutchinson now stands, and where we had gone into camp about noon of May 21st. While at dinner we were suddenly startled by the alarm cry "Indians!"

Before we had got our teams and wagons fairly in corral, they were charging around us on their horses, yelling and firing like demons. Taken at such a dangerous disadvantage and surprise, we were just in that position which makes men fight with desperation, and instantaneously our rifles were pealing forth their notes of defiance and death to the dusky murderous foe.

We were completely encircled by the savages, who proved to be Comanches, swinging upon the opposite side of their ponies exposing but little of themselves to our aim by firing under their horses' necks. Their deadly missiles were so n playing havoc among our cattle. The creatures were madly surging and bellowing around, endangering us to a death beneath their feet, worse to be feared within the enclosure than the foe without. This new danger soon drove us outside the enclosure of wagons in full view of the Indians.

We had now fairly got our hands in and were tumbling their ponies at a rapid rate. Few Indians after their ponies fell, escaped a rifle bullet. The Indians were narrowing their circle until twenty-five yards scarcely intervened between us. But the motion of their steeds unsteadied their aim until it was but

random, while the closer they pressed us the more destructive became every shot we fired.

Such fighting could not last long. After the first few rounds the savages mostly substituted the gun with the bow and arrows. Finding themselves getting most terribly worsted in the combat, they made a dash to ride down and tomahawk us all in one death struggle. I tell you, then, we had no child's play. Out-numbering four or five to one in a hand-to-hand fight to the death, is a serious thing. We were soon mingling together, but driven against the wagons, we could dodge or parry their blows with the tomahawk, while the rapid flashes from the celebrated "navy" in each man's hand, was not so easily avoided by the savage warriors. We made the ground too hot for them, and with yells of baffled rage, they broke and fled, carrying off all their killed and wounded but three, which they had to leave.

Now for the first time since the fight began we had time to take in our situation. One of the bravest and best of our comrades, young Gilbert, was shot through the heart while fighting the savages back with clubbed rifle, his revolver having missed fire. He lay as he fell, with his hand clenched around the stock of his gun as though he would take the weapon with his departed spirit to the other world where he might avenge his death upon the savages who had paid such a dear penalty for their last work. Many others of our company were wounded, two of them severely. The dead and dying ponies were scattered about on the prairie with the arms and accoutrements of their savage owners about them; while several of our cattle were also dead and dying from wounds made by missiles aimed for us.

The remainder of the day was spent in burying our poor comrade on the spot made sacred by his life's blood (which we did as well as we could under the circumstances,) caring for our wounded, and gathering up the spoils of the fight. We destroyed everything belonging to the Indians that we could not carry away, and along towards night-fall moved a mile up the river, where we went into camp.

After the excitement consequent upon the fight began to subside, we had much to talk over about our chances of fighting our way with such a small force through the entire boundless plains before us to New Mexico. The future looked hopeless indeed, but J. W. Jones who commanded the outfit, swore he would go to Santa Fe or go to ——. We dare not show the white feather, then.

## FIGHT ON THE WALNUT

OUR progress was necessarily slow. No adventure of any consequence happened until we reached the Walnut Creek. Here we camped some 200 or 300 yards below the old trail, in a horse-shoe bend, on the west side of the creek. No event occurred during the night to show the presence of Indians; but about dawn of the next morning, as the guards were turning the cattle out of the corral to graze, the Indians—Cheyennes, some 500 of them, some mounted and more afoot,—immediately tried to get possession of the cattle. Those on foot engaged the guards, while those mounted tried to get between the cattle and the corral, thus cutting them off. The firing immediately roused the camp to arms; and in the face of the firing by the Indians we surrounded the cattle, and drove them back into the corral.

Then the fighting began in good earnest. At first we proved too much for them, and they retreated into a low sag south of the corral; but quickly returned with more desperate energy than at first. Then forming solid lines, six or eight deep, made a forced charge on the wagons from the south, yelling like demons, and firing through under the wagons. It never seemed as if so few men could stand such an assault. Our men were prepared for them, however, and, firing from behind and under the wagons, gave them a warm reception as they came up.

At the east end they broke through and came into the corral; but of those who came through it is a question if any ever returned. They were immediately shot and clubbed with

the guns. I broke my own gun-stock over the head of one of the miscreants. There were nine of them left within the corral dead. The Indians, seeing the fate that befallen their comrades who went through under the wagons, began a hasty retreat, and were quickly followed by the entire pack as fast as they could run. They took refuge in a low range of sand hill along the Arkansas river, some 60 or 80 rods to the south, from which they emerged occasionally during the morning to harass us.

We followed them up toward the sand hills, firing at them to the best possible advantage; but when we had got as far as the low sag, we were ordered to retreat to the wagons. Our wagon master, after the dead Indians, outside and in, were all counted, reported 60 Indians killed. Our own loss was five killed and several wounded, none mortally.

There was another camp of 35 men, sent out by Majors & Russell of Missouri, about half a mile west; and about 9 or 10 o'clock they formed a line and came down toward the Indians. Seeing this we formed a line and advanced to join them, and move together upon the Indians. They, upon the other hand, seeing our movement, beat a hasty retreat across the river.

We buried our dead on a point between two draws a little southwest of camp; and about 2 o'clock broke camp, and in company with Majors & Russell's outfit, started westward.

About 5 or 6 miles west we had a slight brush with the Indians, but nothing serious until we arrived at Pawnee Rock, which we reached about 2 or 3 o'clock next day.

## FIGHT AT THE ROCK

WE camped about 200 yards to the south of the rock. Nothing unusual transpired during the night. About 8 o'clock next morning, just as we had brought our cattle up to the corral, and were yoking them up, a band of Cheyennes, to the number of about 300, suddenly made a dash from the north, part of the Indians coming in on each side of the Rock, and immediately surrounded our corral of wagons, with a terrible war-whoop.

The usual manner of making such a corral was to form a circle with the wagons, running them as close behind each other as possible, with the left-hand or driver's side innermost. When the circle was complete, an opening the size of a wagon was left for a gate, which was closed by a single wagon just inside the circle, so placed that it could be run aside or back into the gap, or "gate," during the night, and times of danger, the cattle are kept within this enclosure or "corral," as it is called; at

other times they were turned out to graze, in charge of several men. On the left-hand side of the wagon bed, above the wheels, there was a small box about five feet long, prepared with a hinged cover that pitched so as to shed rain. This box contained, in a convenient position, the arms, ammunition, lunch, trinkets, etc., of the driver.

Leaving our cattle as they were, some yoked, some partly yoked, we instantly seized our weapons and pitched in vigorously to repulse the assault.

The Indians opened a heavy fire from the start. They made strainers of our wagon boxes by perforating them with bullets and arrow heads. The Indians who were mounted fired high, and may possibly sometimes have hit some of their own men on the opposite side of the corral.

After firing in this way for a while, and finding they could gain nothing, they beat a

hasty retreat to the south, taking with them their dead and wounded, who were in nearly all cases tied to their ponies, as was shown by the thongs that lay by some of the dead ponies, where the riders had cut to see and got away.

In this fight we had one man wounded, and several cattle killed.

From here on we had to fight the Indians every few days. We had engagements at Pawnee Fork, again near Dodge, again at Cimarron, here by the Apaches and Arrapahoes, again at Mount Aubrey, Kearney County.

## FIGHT AT MOUNT AUBREY

AT this place we arrived the next day after the slaughter of a party of Spaniards who were going east from Santa Fe, to purchase goods. We found ten dead Spaniards, and one wounded, still living, with his scalp off, though he died the morning after.

At the first peep of day, the next morning after we arrived there, the Indians—Apaches and Arrapahoes—attacked us, first firing on the guards, and then coming up by slow, cautious movements, seeking every buffalo wallow, or other slight protection to cover themselves. So stealthily and steadily did they advance that almost before we were aware of it we had eight men lying dead. All this time we kept up a vigorous and pointed fire, always aiming and firing with intent to kill.

About 10 o'clock, finding they could not

capture our train, they retreated the way they came, leaving their dead on the ground. These, amounting to between 50 and 80, we piled up on the plain and left for the coyotes and buzzards.

We remained here four days, and buried our dead and the Spaniards—19 in all—in one trench. In the meantime—and this we tell in a whisper—we amused ourselves at target shooting, using for a target the head of some luckless Indian, which would be placed in all conceivable positions to be shot at.

We had some more fighting now and then until we reached Fort Bent, after which we were out of the hostile country; and reached Santa Fe in safety, with what we had left of men and animals. We lost no wagons, and carried our cargo entirely through.

## INDIAN FIGHT ON LOWREY'S ISLAND OPPOSITE LARNED IN 1860

From Governor Isaac Sharp's Diary

By Major Henry Inman of Larned

IT was a magnificent September day in the early part of that month in the year 1860.

The amber mist of the glorious Indian Summer hung in light clouds over the rippling Pawnee, and the sheen of the noon-day sun on the Arkansas made that silent stream, where it broadens out lake-like, towards the now thriving little village of Garfield, sparkle and scintillate until it was painful for the eyes to rest upon. The low group of sand-hills loomed up white and silvery, like the chalk cliffs of Dover. The box-elders and cottonwoods that fringed the tributaries to the rivers were rapidly donning their Autumn dress of russet, and the mirage had already, in the early mornings, commenced its weird and fantastic play with the landscape.

Under the shadow of the bluff, where Larned now reposes so picturesquely, hundreds of buffaloes were grazing, and on the plateau above the crest of the hill, a few sentinel antelopes were guarding their charge, now quiet-

ly ruminating their morning's meal in the ravines running towards the river.

Near where Brown's Grove is now located, under the grateful shade of the thickest clumps of timber, about forty wigwams were irregularly scattered, and on the hills a herd of two or three hundred ponies were lazily feeding, guarded by half a dozen superannuated squaws, and a troop of dusky little children, who were chasing the yellow butterflies from the now dried and dying sun flower stalks that so conspicuously marked the broad trail to the river. This beautiful spot was selected by Black Kettle, chief of the Cheyennes, for his winter camp, where only a few weeks previously he had moved from the Canadian, and settled with his band to hunt on the Arkansas Bottom, and watch his enemies, the Pawnees, who claimed the same ground, and where year after year the most sanguinary battles between the two tribes had been fought. Apart from the remainder of the wigwams, and near the



edge of the stream was the magnificent lodge of Yellow Buffalo, the war chief of the Cheyennes. This lodge was formed of beautifully porcupined and beaded robes, and its interior was graced with a long row of scalps—the trophies of his fame as a great warrior.

On the morning of the date above mentioned, I had reached the Arkansas at a point a few miles east of the mouth of the Pawnee, on my way to Fort Larned from my ranch on Sharp's Creek, (now in McPherson county,) and when near where Larned now stands I noticed a large body of Indians in a stooping attitude, as though hunting for something, and I supposed them to be some of my Kiowa friends on the trail of an enemy. I spurred my horse and rode toward them, when all of a sudden they dropped in the grass, which convinced me of the error of my first supposition. I was acquainted at that time with nearly all the tribes on the plains, and particularly those who would probably be in that vicinity then, and with a fair knowledge of the Indian character, I readily concluded that my covey in the grass were a band of "Dog-Soldiers," of some tribe, either on the war-path against some of the other tribes that roamed in the valley of the Arkansas, or a party to steal horses, and in either event I had nothing to fear, as the report of a gun would be the last thing they would want to hear just then.

So I rode on, and when within a hundred yards or so of the Indians, one rose, and holding both hands up with palms to the front, in his own dialect called my name. I then felt considerably relieved for I found myself among thirty-two Pawnees, who, as I first supposed, were there to steal horses from the Cheyennes or Kiowas. On hearing this fact, I told them that a few miles back on the trail, I had seen a large number of Indians on the high prairie, scattered out as if surrounding buffalo, or elk, but that I had seen no game, and now I knew their presence was known to the Arkansas tribes, and that there were so many of these wild Indians that the few Pawnees would all be killed if found.

They then told me they wanted to reach the island in the river, and there they could fight all the "Ingins" that would dare come, and if they got to the island before the wild Indians found them, I must go to them and tell them that they were there, and myself come and see the fight. That if I staid on my horse, either on the east or west side of the island, or on the hill on the northwest, I could see it all and be safe from their bullets; and if they all got killed I should tell their people how grandly and bravely they died.

I left them and went on towards the Fort, and when within three miles of it, met "Yellow Buffalo" with some two hundred of his warriors, with their paint on and beating their drums.

"Yellow Buffalo" was then about thirty years old, and as grand a looking Indian as I ever saw. I delivered my message from the

Pawnees to him, immediately upon which the two hundred warriors raised the war-cry, which echoed and reverberated in all the splendor of its savage grandeur over the prairie, and which none but those who have heard it under such circumstances, can appreciate.

Stung to the heart by my message of defiance, "Yellow Buffalo" appeared the true savage that he was, and the ferocity of his wild nature glared in his eyes as he thought of the deep wrongs done to his tribe by the "dogs of Pawnees!" as he called them, and appealed to his men that "now was the time presented to them, to not only reap an adequate revenge, but add lasting laurels to their wreaths as brave and skilful warriors."

We were a little south of the old Santa Fe trail, and he ordered his band to turn nearly due south and then we loped off in the direction of the island. As we neared the river bank we saw the last of the Pawnees, who had been watching our approach, plunge into the stream and reach the island in safety, as our advance halted on the spot where now rests the north end of the Larned bridge. It was now about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The Cheyennes dismounted, and every tenth man went to the rear to hold the horses and guard them from a possible flank movement on the part of the Pawnees. I was honored by "Yellow Buffalo" with the privilege of taking care of my own horse—which I am happy to say I did from a position on the south end of the hill west of town, and as near the river as was prudent for a non-combatant. Nearly all the Cheyennes were armed with muzzle-loading rifles, and a third of them had large Colt's army revolvers. At the command of their chief, "Yellow Buffalo," the Cheyennes formed a line of battle, which seemed to extend up and down the river the whole length of the island, while five or six of them acted as flankers, using five or six of them acted as flankers. During to be seen.

In those days the island was covered only with thick willows, which concealed the watchful Pawnees, who were rather better armed than the Cheyennes each having a Spencer carbine and two revolvers, either army or navy pattern, besides their bows and quivers well filled with arrows. When all was in readiness, and "Yellow Buffalo" had made a proper disposition of his forces, he gave the order to charge! Upon hearing his clear voice ring across the prairie, his warriors responded with a most unearthly yell, that seemed to shake even the eternal dunes of sand on the opposite side of the river, and then rushed pell-mell into the Arkansas. The water was waist high, and as they advanced they still kept up the infernal yell until they reached within ten feet of the island, when, like a flash of light from a clear sky, came a sheet of flame from the edge of the willows, promptly responded to by the braves in the water.

In an instant however, much to my sur-

prise, the Pawnees delivered from their ranks another volley, followed immediately by the quick sharp crack of revolvers, which seemed to completely overwhelm and discomfort the Cheyennes, all of whom beat a hasty retreat to the main land. Their war-whoop ceased the instant they commenced their backward march, and in a moment some twenty of the Pawnees appeared above the willows and kept up a well directed fire on their foes until the latter reached the bank of the river.

In this single charge of the Cheyennes, thirteen were killed and twenty-three wounded evincing a coolness and deliberation on the part of the Pawnees, not excelled by the best organized troops. The Cheyennes, in their charge, showed their characteristic recklessness and daring, but which counted for nothing in results, as all the bullets were carried clear over the heads of the Pawnees who were concealed by the friendly willows.

While the main body of the Pawnees were keeping up their almost incessant fire upon the retreating Cheyennes, three or four others rose at opposite ends of the island, and opened with some well delivered shots with their carbines at the Cheyenne flankers, so that the whole number became demoralized, and "Yellow Buffalo" with all his painted warriors, fled as far back as where the Rev. R. M. Overstreet's church now stands on Main street, and held a council.

"Yellow Buffalo" then dispatched a messenger for reinforcements, and in about an hour they arrived from south of the river to the number of some four or five hundred, and upon their joining the other, "Yellow Buffalo" made the same disposition of his now augmented forces as he had with his original army, and

then turned his command over to "Black Kettle," who had come on the ground.

"Black Kettle" kept his Indians in close order, and when they reached within shooting distance of the island, the Pawnees opened upon them with a terrible volley, and the most deafening and diabolical yells, and kept it up for at least ten minutes. The poor Cheyennes returned the fire as best they could, but invariably overshot the Pawnees, whom they could not see, so closely were they hidden by the willows.

Meanwhile "Black Kettle" ingloriously retreated, and then "Yellow Buffalo" felt himself no more disgraced than the "bead war chief" and his chosen warriors. Thus ended this rather remarkable fight. I never could learn definitely how many of the Cheyennes were killed and wounded in the second charge, but the Pawnees told me they were double the number of the first charge, and coming as it did from the victors, I always made a reasonable allowance. The Cheyennes utterly refused to tell me the number of their loss, but I saw their wounded that night, and helped dress most of their wounds. There were twenty-eight in "Black Kettle's" camp.

On my return from the Fort next day with my mail, the Cheyennes informed me that these same Pawnees charged through the guards, and actually drove off about 200 of the Cheyenne ponies.

The Pawnees assured me they had but forty warriors, all told, and that they lost in killed and wounded but two. The Cheyennes stated however, that they found five graves in the sand, under the edge of the water, which they exhumed and left the bodies to rot, and the bones to bleach on the prairie like a coyote.

## A PIONEER'S EXPERIENCE

By Homer H. Kidder of Great Bend

**I**N 1863, I left Michigan with the purpose of taking a look over Kansas, principally with a view of making a home and going into business. At Kansas City I met with Kit Carson, the famous Indian scout, and Wm. Bent, the builder of Bent's old Fort, near the mouth of the Purgatoire river in Colorado. They were then preparing to take a trip west, and knowing I would never have a better chance, I gladly accepted their invitation and accompanied them.

From Kansas City Kit Carson, Mr. Bent, Charley Rath and myself went up the river to Leavenworth; there we joined a mule train of about ten wagons. We came by way of Topeka (then quite a small town), and Council Grove.

In September we arrived at the mouth of Walnut Creek, and went into camp about an

hour before sunset, and, while knowing full well that we were 100 miles from the nearest white settlement, yet we saw large numbers of human beings coming to us on horseback, which, on their arrival, proved to be wild Indians; but as they were peaceable at that time we had nothing to fear, and upon taking a view of the broad green prairies, dotted here and there with clusters of Indian lodges and groupes of ponies, and in the distant background could be seen large herds of buffalo, waiting quietly to become food for the Indians. It was truly the happiest hour of my existence for it was my first sight of wild Indians and buffaloes.

The Indians arrived at our camp and dismounted, and, after shaking hands all round, with their "how, how," they sat down, we all smoked the pipe of peace, and after spending

an hour or so in a chat, we all lay down on the ground for a sleep.

Next morning several Indians with Kif and myself went out on a buffalo chase, and within half an hour ran into a fine herd of them, and after a short run we had several of them lying dead on the ground, some killed with arrows by the Indians and some with our bullets.

We remained in the Indian camp several days, for rest, and decided to open a trading post with them; and, after a few days more were spent in an Indian feast and making our camp convenient for business—building a corral for our stock, etc.—we opened up and sold such goods as we had brought for that purpose. After several weeks of life with the Indian families, enjoying the company of the beautiful Indian maidens, eating out of the same skillet with them, and partaking of their dish of "fat dog," I bade my dusky beauties adieu, and went up to Fort Larned to accept the situation of clerk in the quartermaster's office for the winter. At that time Fort Larned was a small adobe fort. We had a long spell of intensely cold weather, with considerable of "the beautiful snow" on the ground; and during that winter many freighters lost much of their stock by freezing to death and stampeding and remaining with the buffalo. Several "bull-whackers" also froze to death that winter. But, as everything has an end, so did our bitter cold winter, and with it came our spring, when I resigned my clerkship and returned to Walnut Creek, where I built a ranch that lasted me many years during my frontier life. I located it close to the creek for the purpose of obtaining water without endangering myself from the hostile attacks of the Indians, who were then threatening to break out and go on the war-path. I had not half finished my ranch (it being slow work to cut the sod with an ax), when the Indians made a break on some freight trains enroute to Mexico, cutting off some of the hind wagons, capturing the stock and killing the drivers. This of course opened the warfare and put us all on our guard. I finally finished my ranch, and began to trade for poor and lame cattle that were brought from Mexico by freighters and drovers; and during that year found myself in possession of a nice large herd of cattle, and by keeping them well guarded from the Indians I lost none of them. During the year the Indians made a great many attacks on trains, seldom failing to get the best of the bargain and carry off the scalp of some poor unfortunate who happened to be away from the main party; but as the season closed the Indians retreated to the Medicine Lodge, where they spent the winter, and made ready for a continued raid and a season fight of plunder and massacre next year.

The winter being a very mild one, my herd of stock went through in fine condition, and in the following year I increased the herd to several thousand head, and as the freighting season again opened, everything seemed lively.

It was nothing uncommon to see 100 wagons in a double line, moving across our "Great American Desert," and it was almost a daily occurrence to see from 30 to 100 "Prairie Schooners" at once. These wagons, when under a full load, would contain from 4 to 6 thousand pounds, and were hauled by six yoke of oxen or six mules. All these wagons would camp on the creek, at or near my ranch, making it contain quite an army nearly every night. Such nights would usually be spent in telling yarns until a late hour, when all would take their "gunny sack" and lie down for sleep on the ground, except the night herders who were constantly on the watch till the break of day when they drove in the stock. In a moment all was astir, and within half an hour on the move, and I left alone again, with the exception of my hired help.

Thus the season continued, except an occasional attack on some poor pilgrim or unguarded train, in which, after a few moments of the most intense excitement, the Indians would usually come out victorious, having one or more bloody scalps at their belts, and were stampeding the stock across the prairies at full speed.

While engaged in herding my cattle one day one of my men (Jack) being near by but out of sight, fishing in the creek, a small war party of Indians came up from the river near by, and seeing a mule train about a mile off, they all made a dash on the train except one Indian, who, upon seeing me, set up such a yell as only a red devil can give, and with a drawn lance made a dash at me with the utmost speed, intending to run me through. When about a rod from me I fired. With a piercing yell he jumped from the pony, the blood spurting from his bare breast. As he came to the ground we clenched, each one trying to get away with "his Injun." Part of the time he was on top, then again I had him down; and he, though weakening from loss of blood, got a knife from his belt and made a lunge at me, while I was grasping him in a genuine rough-and-tumble for dear life, and trying to restrain his hand. He finally succeeded in thrusting the knife through my hand, and was about getting away with me, when my herdsman came in timely to the scene of action. The Indian relaxed his hold of me and fell to the ground, with a bullet through his head, and before he breathed his last I had his scalp with his own knife; and, while he has "gone to the happy hunting ground," I still carry "as a trophy" the scars of that event and the long scalp of my enemy.

The Indians would occasionally make a dive on some train and get the worst of it, having their scalps taken, which all white frontiersmen would do whenever they killed a red-skin. This was done, they said, to keep the dead warriors from going to the "happy hunting ground," the Indians claiming that anyone losing their scalp will never go there.



And so the season wore on; we usually got our supplies from the passing trains; so that, in reality, our life was an easy one, yet full of excitement on account of the Indians who often tried to get our stock, but failed; until September, when they made a grand successful rally, and drove off all my stock, killing my herder.

The loosing of several thousand head of cattle gave me the blues, and shortly after I accepted a situation as mail carrier on the Santa Fe stage line of Barlow, Sanderson & Co., where I remained more than three years, but still keeping up my ranch, having to pass it weekly going out and returning to the States. During that time I crossed the plains 150 times.

During the fall of 1867 the Indians attacked a mule train, enroute for Mexico, near the mouth of Walnut Creek, cut off an ambulance from the rear end and killed an old lady and gentleman, cut the old lady in quarters, piled her clothes on the remains and set them on fire, and carried off the bleeding scalps of both at their belts.

This was the year that Fort Zarah was built and occupied by troops. During this same fall, a short distance this side of Walnut Creek four government teams loaded for Fort Larned were attacked by Indians, who succeeded in killing and scalping the drivers, and running off the stock. The Post Commander, thinking it not a safe place for him, kept his quarters, and gave us what we could get out of the wreck; we went out and made a nice haul of coffee, sauer kraut, beans, flour, sugar, etc.

Cow Creek crossing had many a fight between freighters and Indians, and many killed on both sides. Once, when a small party (three men and one woman) with an ambulance, were going to Fort Harker, they were attacked about a mile east of Cow Creek crossing; they stopped over a deep buffalo wallow, and all got down into it for protection. While in this condition a company of troops commanded by a captain who had been sent out to look after them, came up on the west bank of Cow Creek in plain view of the scene, and after looking at them a few moments, turned his command around for the west, without attempting to render them any assistance. One sergeant in his company begged the captain to cross the creek and relieve them, but instead of so doing the captain put the sergeant under arrest and returned to Fort Zarah with his company, thus leaving the small party to perish at the hands of the red devils, which they most certainly would, had it not been for the timely arrival of a dozen

scouts on their way from Fort Harker to Fort Larned, who arrived on the spot just as the deserted party had used their last shots at the Indians. They killed three or four Indians, and on the other hand the Indians wounded the entire party. The cowardly captain was cashiered and dismissed from the service for the act.

We raised onions, tomatoes and potatoes, that year (1867) near the ranch on spaded ground, they being the first vegetables ever raised in Barton County by white men. We had rains enough to keep them in good growing condition, and they matured of good size, and shape.

That fall everything went on in the usual way, the Indians taking the west end of the road above and around Fort Dodge. A mild winter followed; and when spring returned so did the Indians, who kept up their attacks during the summer at every opportunity. They kept things livelier than usual for us.

During the fall of 1868 we fought the last Indian fight of Barton County, four miles below where Great Bend now stands, on the Arkansas river. We numbered twelve men and the Indians about seventy-five. We fought them for three hours, killing and wounding several, also killing several ponies. We lost two men in that engagement; shot with both bullets and arrows. The Indians finally left the battle ground, carrying off their dead and the battle ground, carrying off their dead and I sent my colored man out for some stray stock; the Indians cut him off from the ranch, captured him, cut off his feet and one of his hands, skinned the muscles off his limbs, skinned the whole top of his head—taking every hair, ripped him open from end to end, and left him. He crawled several rods in that condition, until he reached an elevation in sight of the ranch, and expired.

During the same fall, and a short time previous, the Indians killed and scalped a white man of mine, near where now stands the Great Bend stock yards.

Another engagement was had in September, (I think), that same fall, only a short time previous to the last one mentioned, just this side of Walnut Creek, and near where the railroad bridge now is, between the Indians and soldiers of the Fort. The red devils captured the teams and killed some of the soldiers. Indian fights were frequent along the Santa Fe trail, that season, and many of good white men was put under the sod on that account.

Cholera extended from ranch to ranch, nearly crossing the plains, in 1867, and many died in consequence.

## ANOTHER INCIDENT

WE are informed by Mr T. J. Richardson, a settler near Rush Center, that in September, 1869, while returning from a trip over the Rocky Mountains, he

stopped over night at "Peacock's Ranch," an abode concern then situated a short distance below the Walnut, about where Fort Zarah was built. There he learned of the massacre of



Mr. Peacock and five others, part of them members of his family, by the Kiowa Indians, one or two weeks previous. One man escaped whose name he did not learn. Our informant did not know where Mr. Peacock was from,

and did not state how long he had lived at the ranch. The Indians carried off all the stock connected with the ranch, and committed sundry other depredations on emigrants.

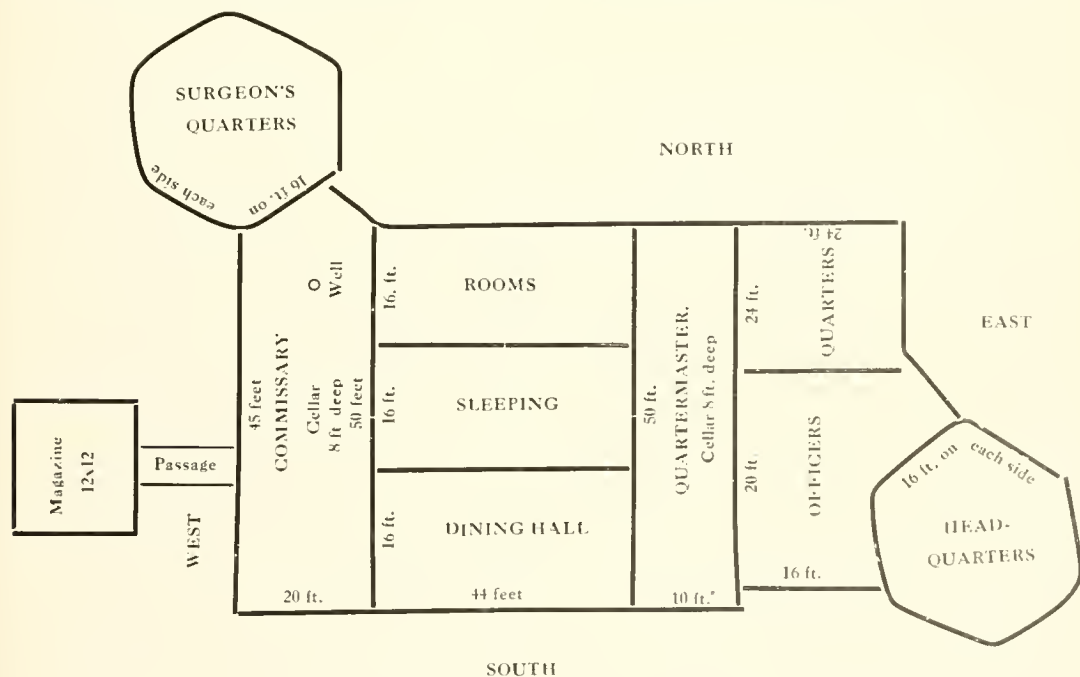
## OLD FORT ZARAH

**F**ORT ZARAH was established September 6, 1864, by Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, then in command of the military district, and named in honor of his son, Maj. H. Zarah Curtis, who was killed at the Baxter Springs massacre while on the staff of Gen. Blunt, October 6th, 1863. It was completed in 1867, and spoken of as an outpost.

The site of the Fort is well known to all—at the southeast of the Walnut. It stood on a gentle eminence, nearly surrounded by a shallow creek which might easily be made a means of defense by filling with water.

It was built of sandstone, quarried in the

somewhat resembling a "hop-scotch" bed. It was two stories high except 24 feet of the eastern part. The main entrance was at the eastern end, opening into the officers' quarters. There was only one window in the entire building, and that was at the eastern end. There were loop-holes along the northwest, and south sides. At the southeast and northwest corners there were hexagonal, two-story towers, with two sets of loop-holes for musketry. These loop-holes were arranged in sets of three on a side in each story, and presented a face opening of two inches wide by 16 inches high, widening in the wall to a



PLAN OF FORT ZARAH

neighboring bluffs about three miles off. These rocks were mostly of a deep purplish brown, varying to a light brown. They were usually hewn to a pretty smooth face, and laid up in the rough, in good solid mortar. The outer walls were about 16 inches thick, the inner walls one foot. The walls inside were all well plastered. The roof of the building was of tin, 116 feet, with an average width of 50 feet. The main portion was divided into 7 rooms,

breadth of about 16 or 18 inches on the inside. Beneath the rooms running across the ends, there were cellars dug 8 feet deep and walled with stone. To the west, at a distance of 20 feet, was the magazine, which was 12 feet square, and connected with the west cellar by an underground passage 4 feet wide. A short distance to the southeast of the fort stood the guard house, a stone building about 14 feet square. We herewith present a plan of the fort:

## OTHER RUINS.

There are many evidences of occupation surrounding the Fort, such as cellars, remains and traces of ranches, huts, shanties, tents, etc. On section 36, township 19 south, range 13 west, about 100 rods south of the southeast corner of the reservation, near where the old toll-bridge crossed the Walnut, appears the most formidable ruins of any. At first sight there would seem to have been a fort there once; but it must be remembered that in those days herdsmen were obliged to build for defense. Besides, the "oldest inhabitant," Mr. H. H. Kidder, assures us that there was never a fort there—only a ranch. The main building is 70 feet north and south, by 30 feet across. A cross wall divides it into two rooms, the north one being 30 feet square, the south one 30 by 40. There are still some very heavy rocks in the foundation of the walls, though most of the material of which the walls were composed has long since been carried off. The debris is still 18 inches to 2 feet high. Attached to the southeast corner appears a hexagonal ruin of earth and rock, each of the sides about 12 feet long. On the west side of the building are earth-works, about 60 by 80 yards, with various cross-works and walls. These were the walls of the corral, which was divided into apartments. The present owner of the ground has some field crop growing over the ruins; but it seems like farming under difficulties, for the soil is not so rich and damp as ordinary prairie soil.

## CEMETERY.

About 300 yards northeast of these ruins, in Section 31, T. 19, R. 12 W., is the old grave yard. This bears evidence of more recent use. There are about 18 or 20 graves in all; though many were difficult to distinguish, and there may be more or less. Many of the graves have no stone or stick to mark the spot, and can only be detected by a slight ridge or depression. Several have sandstones raised at the head and foot.

Only one grave has a stone with any inscription. This, a brown sandstone, is broken down, and bears the following well carved, but partly effaced, inscription:

IN

MEMORY OF

CHARLES WELCH,

Who Died Mar. 22d, 1872.

Age 1 yr and 2 Months.

The age was the most effaced, and may have been something else. At the foot a neat cross is engraved on a standing brown sandstone. The grave is covered densely with buffalo grass, and appears much older. At the foot of one grave there is a cottonwood board, without any inscription. At the heads and feet of a few, small stones are stuck in the ground.

Three of the graves, which are probably those of soldiers, are surrounded by stone walls 18 inches high, which are filled within

with earth. These are in the best condition of any of the graves.

## RESERVATION.

Fort Zarah Military Reservation was established September 30th, 1868, by order of the president, and surveyed and laid out the same year. It is about two by two and three quarters miles in extent, and reaches from the railroad north to the hills. It contains about 3,698 acres.

On February 24, 1871, an act of Congress provided for bringing into market the lands of the Fort Zarah Reservation; and on August 11, 1871, "the Surveyor General was authorized to extend the lines of the public surveys over the same."

In July, 1874, "the lands having been appraised at from \$3 to \$10 per acre," were offered at public sale at Salina, at which sale "only two lots, containing together 45.20 acres, were sold at \$4 per acre, leaving the balance subject to private entry at the appraised value."

## FORT ABANDONED.

The Fort was "dismantled" in 1869. Among other work of dismantling was the removal of the tin roof at an expense to the government of \$20,000; and the removal of the same to Fort Harker at a further expense of \$10,000;—fat jobs for some poor contractors. On arrival of the tin roof at Fort Harker, the receiver wouldn't receive her; so the thing was dumped down on the prairie a short distance from the fort; and it has since done good service in sheltering various settlers on government lands. The original cost of Fort Zarah was \$110,000.

After the abandonment of the Fort it became a den of thieves and general rendezvous for bats and marauders. These occupied it day and night by turns,—the former hiding by day, the latter by night.

Settlements commenced in 1871. Almost immediately the hand of the granger was laid upon it, and it began to disappear little by little. Capt. E. V. Rugar was appointed a marshal to take care of it, which he bravely did by going to California in 1874, and letting the Fort take care of itself.

Shortly after the sale of lots mentioned above, Mr. E. C. Sooy put up a notice forbidding anyone to remove any rock from Fort Zarah, as the property had been purchased and now belonged to private individuals. The notice held good until all the best rock had been hauled away from the Fort by various parties at Great Bend, who made quick work of it for a short time, when the rumor was spread that there had been no sale, and the valuable stone remaining at the old Fort lasted but a very short time after; and today only a heap of rubbish, overgrown with rank weeds is left to mark the spot where the proud Fort once stood. Fort Zarah has passed into history.

## INDIAN TROUBLES.

In 1868, Indians were very troublesome to the settlers and ranchers in the country at that time. They would attack ranchers and wagon trains, run off the horses and cattle, and some times kill the people.

On or about the 12th of August, 1868, word came to Fort Zarah that the Indians were murdering the settlers on the Saline, and Col. Menteen, with his company of 7th Cavalry, "marched swiftly" to their relief, and run the Indians about ten miles.

On October 2nd, 1868, Gen. Hazen reports that "about 100 Indians attacked the Fort at daylight, and were driven off; then they attacked a provision train, killed one of the teamsters, and secured the mules from four wagons; then attacked the ranch eight miles below (near Ellinwood) and drove off the stock."

On the 10th, Lieut. Kaizer, 3rd Infantry, reports that "at 4 p. m. a party of Indians surrounded and drove off six horses and two mules from citizens near Fort Zarah."

## SKETCH OF PIONEER LIFE

By Ed. W. Dewey

**A**BOUT the 7th of July, 1871, I came into Barton county from the town of Russell, Russell County, Kansas. At that time the population of Barton County consisted of but few inhabitants, and they were scattered along the banks of Walnut Creek. There was no settlement on Blood Creek at that time.

One of the first settlers in Great Bend township was Mr. John Cook who, in June, 1871, built a dugout on the bank of the creek, about three miles from the present site of Great Bend. There was no stone or frame house in the county at that time. Mr. A. C. Moses and Mr. J. H. Hubbard were preparing to build frame houses. Mr. A. C. Moses had a few boards put up like a tent, and Mr. Hubbard was hauling stone for a foundation. They had located about two miles below Mr. Cook, on the creek. The country was overrun with buffalo, which kept us awake at night with their continual bellowing and stamping. I settled on a piece of land on the creek—the southwest quarter of section 4, township 19, range 13—and took out my papers about the 15th of July, 1871. The section on which Great Bend now stands was then vacant.

There was no reliable survey of that township, as there were no corners marked within the township by the government surveyors. At this time there was a surveyor by the name of H. Meritt, camped at the old fort, and laying out a town site near where old Fort Zarah used to stand, with whom I had worked during the fore part of the summer, and so I helped him lay out the townsite of Zarah—as it was called—and we also ran several lines for different parties, mine among the rest.

That, I think, was the first survey in the county, after the government survey. At that time there were no section corners marked in any way within township 19, range 13 west. About the last of August there was a government surveying party at work sectionizing the land lying south of the river. At that time the river was nearly dry—no water running above the mouth of the Walnut. The land south of

the Arkansas was not then considered good for anything by the settlers.

Early in September a party of Pawnee Indians, numbering about 400, all on foot, passed through the settlement, going south to trade for ponies with the southern Indians. They were all armed, and occasioned considerable alarm among us; but they were peaceable, and committed no depredations. They returned late in October, having plenty of ponies and but few arms. Two or three of them were sick, and annoyed the settlers a good deal by begging, etc. One of them died on Blood creek.

We had to send or go to Salina, on the K. P. R. R., to transact all our land business. The railroad land had not yet come into market.

There was not much land broken that summer, and the only crop raised was a small piece of sod corn, about five miles up the creek from my place, which did very well. No wheat of any importance was sowed that fall.

The town site of Great Bend was surveyed out, and a large house (now the Southern Hotel) was built, the lumber being hauled from Ellsworth, on the K. P. R. R., a distance of 50 miles. A few other houses were built during the fall.

Winter coming on, I made a dugout on the banks of the Walnut, on my land, and my family came about the 16th of November. The next day it began to rain and sleet, finally turning to snow. Our things had not yet arrived, and we were compelled to sleep on some old hay in one corner of the dugout. The rain and snow beat in at the door. It became terribly cold before morning, and we came near freezing to death. The creek froze nearly solid.

## PURSUED BY WOLVES.

As the winter progressed the wolves and coyotes became very savage, and it was dangerous for a person to be out on the prairie after dark. Sometime in December I had an adventure with wolves, which I will relate to

illustrate the terrible ferocity of the wolves at that time:

One evening as myself, wife and babe were returning from Mr. E. J. Dodge's (whose family had recently arrived, and where we had been on a visit). I had on a pair of skates, and my wife and babe were on a rude sled, which I had constructed, and was pushing it before me on the ice on the creek. When we had proceeded about one-half the way, we heard the wolves howl on the banks of the creek right ahead of us; and pretty soon their gaunt forms were outlined against the sky. It looked like certain death to go ahead, and almost as certain to turn back, so I pushed ahead and the wolves ran along on the banks beside us until we were nearly home. Then, as if they were afraid that we would get away, they became bolder, and finally, as we turned a bend of the creek, there on the bank, not 10 feet off, stood about half a dozen hungry, howling wolves. As we swung around the bend, two big grays made a leap for the sled, but we were going so fast that they fell short of their intended prey, and as they tried to stop themselves their nails scratched on the ice right beside me, and I felt their hot breath in my face. Immediately I heard them coming behind, and now it was a race for life. I skated as I never skated before or since, and in a few minutes we arrived at the digout. We ran in, and grabbing my gun I shot two dead within a few feet of the door. I shot at several more, and soon they disappeared.

The winter of 1871, was one of the coldest that I have experienced in this country. A man by the name of Jamison had about 1,000 head of Texas cattle in the bottom, by the creek, and, as the river and creek were both frozen nearly solid, the settlers had to cut holes in the ice for the cattle to drink from. The cattle suffered terribly with thirst, and became very ferocious. They would often attack

a person unless he was on horseback. Several people were attacked by them, and the settlers killed some to protect their lives, and for that, as the cow-boys had run all of the buffalo out of the valley for several miles. Considerable trouble grew out of this, but no lives were lost.

The settlers lived on corn bread, molasses, and meat, and sometimes a little flour. Everything we obtained had to be hauled from the K. P. R. R., and that made prices very high. Flour was \$8.00 per cwt., and molasses \$1.50 per gallon; bacon, 20 cents per pound; corn meal, \$5.00 per hundred weight, and everything else in proportion.

There was some little talk of a railroad coming up the Valley, but the prevailing opinion seemed to be that it would cross the Arkansas at some point east and go down through the Medicine Lodge country. Many settlers came in during that fall, and several houses were built.

The spring opened very fine, and the prairie schooners carrying settlers came in very fast, and the talk of a railroad in the near future assumed more definite shape. Considerable land was broken and planted to corn, etc., and the desert, which has since developed into a full blown rose, began to bud. Breaking was worth \$4.50 to \$5.00 per acre. The town of Great Bend commenced to build up, and things were lively. Hauling from the K. P. R. made work for those who had teams and some for those who had none.

The railroad reached Barton County some time in the month of June, 1872, and thus opened up communication with the east.

There were several houses built on the town site of Zarah during the fall of 1871 and spring of 1872. There was a big dance in Buckbee's store at Zarah on Christmas eve, 1871, and a merry time enjoyed by all.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY DAYS

By David N. Heizer of Colorado Springs, Col.

I CAME to Barton County in May, 1871, in company with J. H. Prescott of Enterprise, Miss., W. W. Weymouth of Springfield, O., and Wm. Finn and Albert Griffin of Sedgwick, Kansas. We were looking for a location to engage in stock raising.

We arrived at old Fort Zarah about the 18th of May, 1871. On the night before our arrival we camped with the officers and directors of the A. T. & S. F. railroad, who were returning from a prospecting trip up the Arkansas Valley, over the proposed line of their road. They assured us they would build their road as far west as Fort Zarah within two years.

With this information, upon seeing the magnificent body of land on the Big Bend, as it

was then called, we concluded that here would be a favorable place to commence and build up a settlement. Accordingly we spent several days in surveying and tracing out section lines in township 19, range 13, and after concluding to locate a town on section 26, and making a survey and plat of the same, we organized a town company with J. H. Prescott as president, and authorized him to go to Salina and file on said land, under the Town Site Preemption Act—which he did. I must here recount the scenes of our first buffalo hunt.

### OUR FIRST BUFFALO HUNT.

On our arrival there were myriads of these noble animals on the south of the Arkansas.



J. H. Prescott, Al. Griffin, and myself mounted three horses and set out. Griffin had a Henry rifle and a pair of revolvers, I had a needle gun and a pair of dragoon revolvers, and Mr. Prescott not being a marksman, but very fond of adventure, went along to enjoy the fun. We crossed the Walnut just opposite the old fort, and came to the river. It was high, the sand-bars being covered; we knew nothing about it, and felt very doubtful about being able to cross, as it looked very angry and deep. After debating some time as to whether we would venture, we concluded not to give up unless we were obliged to, and that one of the party should doff his apparel and investigate. As I was the only swimmer it fell on me to explore. I prepared myself after the manner of a theater actress—only more so. The water seemed to be deepest near the bank; I expected to be thoroughly baptized at the first jump. I made a tremendous jump, and lo and behold, the water, mud, sand and all was not knee deep. The spectators encored me, and the rest of the performances consisted in my running and skipping along in water from six inches to five feet deep.

We then crossed, and within a mile of the river came to where a small herd of buffalo bulls were grazing in the sand hills. Griffin and I dismounted and taking our rifles crept to the crest of a ridge about 300 yards of them. I had formerly thought buffalo were about the size of ordinary cattle, but as I looked at one through the sights of my gun, thinking what a terrible beast a wounded buffalo was reported to be, he looked to be as large as an elephant or a common sized barn. I concluded there must be telescopic sights on my gun, and drew it back to look it over; the gun also seemed to have the ague. We finally concluded to both fire at the same bull, and becoming brave, we did so, but without any great damage to the bull, as he went gallaping off with the rest. He was hurt, however, as he limped badly. This was encouraging; and getting very brave, we mounted our horses, left our rifles with Mr. Prescott, and pursued with our revolvers.

#### THE CHASE.

The flight of the bulls had started a large herd just beyond another hill, which we had not seen; we, taking a southeasterly and they a southerly course, we flanked them about the middle of the herd. We then went wild, and dashed right into the midst of the herd, determined to have a buffalo. I could, with the fast horse I had, ride onto any of them, and finally succeeded in shooting a fat cow through the loins, so that she fell out of the herd, disabled. I was so close onto her when I fired that I could have kicked her. The rest of the herd passed on, and Griffin came to the rescue. After about a dozen shots, made in circling around the enraged beast, we brought her down.

We were not yet satisfied, and seeing a small herd of cows and calves off to the northeast, concluded we must have a calf, as they

would be better meat. We dashed for them, and after a two mile chase, got one, which we dressed, threw across my horse, and then set out for camp, leaving the old cow for the coyotes and wolves, which were then here by the thousands.

It was some time before we could find the doctor, whom we had left behind, and almost night before we reached camp, tired and hungry. Never did meat taste better than did steaks from that young buffalo. We ate and were satisfied, for we had possessed the land and proven ourselves worthy hunters of the chase. But to business.

At about this time there were several prospecting parties camped near us on the Walnut, among whom was M. W. Hasley, now of Lakin township. I made up my mind to stay, as did Wm. Finn, of Sedgwick City. Messrs. Weymouth and Prescott went with me to Ellsworth, where they took the train east for Ohio, to return in July or August.

After making a tour up the Saline river, I returned to our ranch on the Walnut, as we had taken possession of and left our stores in an old deserted stone ranch near Fort Zarah.

Finn and I remained at this ranch until about the 20th of June, when E. J. Dodge and Aaron Hartman called on us one evening. Having walked across from Russell, and about perishing on their way from thirst, I shall never forget a little incident that occurred that night.

#### CASTING OUT SERPENTS.

Messrs. Dodge and Hartman had made their bed on the floor (a dirt floor) and were about to retire. As I walked by the foot of our bunk I heard a familiar sound; calling for Finn to bring a light, which he did, we proceeded to kill a very healthy young rattlesnake and cast him out. Dodge and Hartman proceeded as vigorously to gather up their bed and divide the same, preparatory to climbing a tree or seeking some other safe place to sleep. However, Mr. Dodge has always insisted that he felt safer when I told him that was only the second one we had killed that evening, when usually we killed five or six before retiring.

#### LAND AGENT BUSINESS COMMENCED.

Next day, in true land agent style, we proceeded to locate Mr. Dodge, who wanted claims for himself and sons. He then selected the quarter in section 10, T. 19, R. 13., on which he now lives; but we did not get through until he succeeded in getting my team stuck in the Walnut—a little episode I have never fully forgiven him for.

#### A MISHAP.

About the 4th of July of that year, T. L. Morris and Judge Mitchell of Quincy, Ills., made a trip to this point, on a buffalo hunt and a prospecting tour for the Great Bend Town Company. They prospected some and hunted enough for the Judge to get heaped

on the plain by an unruly buffalo bull. The said bull did about seventy-five dollars worth of goring on the Judge's horse—no computation made as to amount of damages done to the Judge's dignity, as the liveryman made no claim on that.

#### ZARAH SURVEYED.

About the same time, a survey for the town of Zarah was being made by one Meriton, for the Zarah Town Company, with Judge Miller of Ellsworth as president. Also, in the latter part of June, John Cook, John Hubbard, A. C. Moses, Ed. W. Dewey, and D. E. Benedict made calls, and Logan Reynolds and J. P. Bissell followed soon. When I first came there were no settlers below Section 14, in township 19, range 14, on Walnut creek.

#### GREAT BEND TOWN COMPANY.

Later, either in July or August, T. L. Morris came out again in the interests of the Great Bend Town Co., and selected section 34, township 19, range 13, as the site for their town. Geo. N. Moses, A. B. Robinson, Frank Day, and Hiram Bickerdyke were in the party

with him. Afterwards, he changed the location to section 28, the present site of the town.

In September, he began the erection of a hotel, now a part of the Southern Hotel, which was completed during the winter and occupied by Thos. L. Stone.

#### STRIFE FOR THE COUNTY SEAT.

Considerable rivalry was rife between the Zarah and Great Bend town folks, which finally resulted in the downfall of Zarah and the triumph of Great Bend.

#### CATTLE TRADE.

The winter of 1871-2 was a very hard one for this latitude, and not much was done for the advancement of the town and settlement until spring. The prospect of the early completion of the railroad, thereby making Great Bend with its rich grazing country a desirable shipping point for Texas cattle attracted the attention of business men who had been identified with the Texas trade at other points; and during the spring of 1872 the town made a very rapid growth. Business houses sprang up around the square as if by magic.

## INTRODUCTION TO KANSAS

By Edward J. Dodge of Great Bend

I LEFT Wisconsin on the 5th of May, 1871, to settle on a piece of government land in some part of Kansas; and arrived in Kansas City on the morning of the 8th. After stopping in the city until the 12th, and posting up as best I could in regard to different points in Kansas, I left by the afternoon train on the K. P. road bound west.

#### JUNCTION CITY.

I stopped at Junction City, where there was a land agent named Pierce, who was a wonderful man to advertise the broad acres of Kansas which could be had for little or nothing, and it would cost nothing to look. I thought he would be just the man to advise with, so I soon bowed myself into his office. I found the gentleman in, and after half an hour's conversation with him, I made up my mind he was willing to help a stranger in more ways than one, as he very kindly offered to take me out in the country three or four miles the next morning, and show me some of the most beautiful land in Davis county all for the trifling sum of \$20, assuring me that if I would get some one to go with me and get him to pay half of the amount he would let me off for \$10, seeing it was me and I had come so far. Thanking him for the interest he had taken in me, I told him if I concluded to go I would be on hand early the next day.

#### STILL GO WEST.

That night I put up at the Hale House or "Bedbug Corral," just across the street. Next morning I arose early, though not until some of the boarders (bedbugs) had been to break-

fast, of which I was a smarting witness. Thinking my old correspondent was more eager to get my \$20 than he was to find me a good location; and not caring to ask him what his charges were for advice, I left on the morning train for the west, and stopped at Ellsworth.

#### ELLSWORTH.

Ellsworth, having been the terminus of the K. P. road for some time, had become notorious for its rushing way of doing business, its cattle trade, and for being one of the roughest and most desperate cities in Kansas. I secured lodgings at one of the best hotels in the city, and next morning rambled about and witnessed the off-hand way in which all business was done.

#### MAN FOR BREAKFAST.

At the ringing of the bell I walked in to breakfast, and sat at the table alone. Presently another gentleman walked in and took a seat directly opposite me, placed a heavy revolver by his plate, and inquired of the waiter what kind of meat he had for breakfast. "Beef and pork," said the waiter. At this the boarded swore and said "That will not do for me; I will have a piece of a man!" and suiting his action to his words, he gave me a terrible demoniac look; but only for a moment. I met his gaze with a steady countenance, and he quailed. He got up, with revolver in hand, stepped to the door, and shot dead the milkman, who was just then passing and whom this fiend had never seen before. In five minutes a crowd had gathered about, placed a rope



around his neck, run him across the street, and stood him upon a barrel under a tree, with the rope thrown over a limb.

#### LAST SERVICE.

As the mob came up, "Rowdy Jo," a German who was keeping saloon near by, inquired what they were going to do with that man, saying that their prisoner owed him \$2 for whisky, and that they must make some arrangement to pay that before they fixed him. They frankly told Jo that their prisoner had killed a man without cause and they were going to hang him for it. Jo simply said, "Hold on then; I won't let anybody hang on my tree midout I say somethings," and at the same time ran into the house and brought out an English bible, and undertook to read a verse in English; but made a poor job of it, and, throwing the bible down on the ground, said it was "no use making so much fuss and trouble over such a little thing as dat," and immediately ran up and kicked the barrel from under the wretch and sent him swinging into eternity. And the executors of the law and justice adjourned to the nearest saloon (Rowdy Jo's) to congratulate each other on their prompt, willing and ready way to punish crime.

#### DIDN'T WANT A CLAIM.

After a little review of the morning's exercises I concluded I did not want a claim just around there, as I did not like the way they did business quite as well as I thought I should.

#### WESTWARD HO! AGAIN.

The next train bound west took me to Wilson station where I stopped off a couple of days to look up land; then went to Fossil, at present Russell. This was the 16th day of May. At this time, aside from railroad buildings, the county of Russell contained only three houses and not more than twenty-five inhabitants. Here I was convinced that I had gone far enough west if I wanted to make farming a profession in Kansas. The land was high and dry. I couldn't make up my mind that Russell County looked like a farming country.

#### MEET AN OLD SETTLER.

While looking about, a gentleman that afterward proved to be Lo. Reynolds, came up to me and with a "how are ye? are you going to stop with us?" waited for an answer. I told him I was, at least until the train went east. He very politely asked me if I would stop at his house. Not knowing his house from any other I said "Certainly, I would as soon stay with you as anybody." So saying he picked up my valise and walked to a small shanty made of rough lumber. I asked him if that was his house.

"It is. How do you like it?"

"First rate. How long have you been here?"

"Eight days. Sit down, sit down, sir; my wife has gone out on a buffalo hunt; she will be home in a couple of hours, and we will have some supper."

"Where did you say she had gone?"

"Out on a buffalo hunt, sir. We have lots of fun hunting buffalo in Kansas," saying which he walked out doors, leaving me alone to consider the consistency of Kansas fun.

#### LADY BUFFALO HUNTER.

I reasoned thus: "A lady out on a buffalo hunt! A new thing to me!" Having never seen my mother, sisters or neighbor women engaged in that kind of sport, it really seemed novel to me. This was my mental picture of her. "A large, masculine, red-headed, freckled woman; voice gruff and harsh; gray eyes; thin lips; and uneven tusky teeth." A good description of a female buffalo hunter.

I had not much more than completed my fancy picture when in walked a lady of more than ordinary beauty; she was small and graceful; had a full black eye, which bespoke good language, modesty, and refinement; easy in her manners; and a very pleasant conversationalist. This was the woman I had so misjudged in my idea of a female buffalo hunter.

I afterward learned it was the common custom of this country for ladies to join in the sports of hunting buffalo, elk, and antelope, in which the western part of Kansas abounded.

#### IN SEARCH FOR A HOME.

On the 17th. I got a livery rig of a young man by the name of Flaek and drove north-west from Russell, in company with a couple of gentlemen from Baltimore 23 miles and back the same day, found the country hilly, rough, and stony. Shot a buffalo and brought home the hams, out of which the whole city of Fossil had beefsteak the next morning. Every man would come and cut off a piece without a word.

#### TRY AGAIN.

Having a curiosity to visit the Valley of the Arkansas, I started, the morning of the 18th, in company with Rev. Mr. Annis, a Baptist minister from Omro, Wis., in a two-seated buggy. We started south at a rapid rate, making Smoky Hill river in less than two hours, a distance of ten miles. At this time the river was quite low being only eleven feet wide and three inches deep. At 12 m. we found ourselves at the head of South Fossil, a brook skirted with elm, ash and cottonwood. In a few minutes our dinner was ready. This consisted of dried buffalo meat, crackers, coffee, and canned fruit. After resting about an hour we resumed our course, traveling over a beautiful country of rolling prairie a distance of about ten miles, to Blood creek, one of the pleasantest valleys in Kansas.

#### VIEW OF PROMISED LAND.

Keeping our course we soon came in sight of the valley of the Walnut creek. I can say

I fell in love with it at first sight. The broad extent of beautiful prairie it contains—level without being low, flat, or marshy; undulating without being hilly, rough, or stony; and about equally divided by one of the most beautiful streams of water that ever coursed its way over the green prairie—the Walnut creek. The banks are fringed with elm, hackberry, ash, cottonwood, and black walnut; the very sight of which made the traveler feel like pitching his tent and possessing himself with as many acres as Uncle Sam would allow him to own.

#### FIND AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE.

We reached Walnut creek at a point a few rods east of where the upper iron bridge now stands. Seeing a young man and a small house on the south side, we made direct for it; and I was not a little surprised to find G. F. Meeklen, an old Wisconsin neighbor its inmate and possessor. I felt comparatively happy that night. I felt as though I had found a paradise in the house of a friend, he being the first settler and built the first house in Barton County. May 19th, we took leave of this frontier hermitage and found our way down to Fort Zarah, a distance of about ten miles.

#### FALL IN WITH ROBBERS.

Fort Zarah was at this time occupied by outlaws. We came to the fort about noon, and found a man known as Jo Bowers dead drunk, lying on the dirt floor. Within thirty minutes there came in six other young men, well dressed, and fine looking. They seemed to be well supplied with whiskey, and the bottle passed around quite freely. They soon got quite lively and musical, and turning Jo over on his back commenced playing cards on his stomach, asking us our business and if we had money to buy land. Elder Adams, not feeling at home in just such a meeting as that, remarked to me "I guess we had better go and run that herd of buffalo across the river." I consented and told Paddock to hitch up, and in five minutes we were ready.

"Where are you going?" said one of the gentlemen.

"To run that herd of buffalo over the river."

"How long will you be gone?"

"It will not take us long."

"Will you be back here tonight?"

"Most certainly; where else should we stay? You keep the only hotel in Barton County."

"Ha! ha! That is so! But don't forget to come back as we have something to say to you that will interest you more than anybody else."

"What time will you have supper?"

"Early. Don't fear, you shall hear the second bell before you go to sleep."

"All right! Drive on, Paddock! How many miles can you drive before dark?"

"Thirty, if necessary."

A herd of buffalo was feeding near where now stands the school house three miles west of Ellinwood. We soon came up to them, and a few shots stampeded them across the Arkansas river, after which we returned to the buggy.

#### SLIP AWAY.

"Well, Dodge, which way shall we go now? Are you anxious to go back to the Fort?"

"Not at all anxious, Elder; my advice is that we leave that range of bluffs to the left, and go north as fast as those two bronchos can take us."

"That is my mind, exactly."

In less than three minutes we were driving at the rate of ten miles an hour, toward the east side of Chyenne Bottoms. Leaving the hills to the left, and running into a clump of timber now known as Dalziel's grove, we soon fed and watered our ponies and made coffee for ourselves. As soon as possible we were on our way again, expecting that every hill we passed over we would be able to see some of the Fort Zarah outlaws on our track.

#### SAFE AT LAST.

Evening came and we found ourselves camped on Coal creek in Russell County. We drove back to Fossil the next morning it being the 20th day of May, thus making a running trip through Barton County. I saw enough of the broad and beautiful valley of the Arkansas and Walnut creek, blended together as they are, to make such an impression on my mind as prompted me to return.

## THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE

By Fred W. Warren

ON the night of December 24th, 1873, Ellinwood had the first Christmas tree in Barton County. It occurred somewhat after this manner.

Our town, being so fortunate as to have five or ten of the most wide-awake, go-ahead ladies to be found in Kansas, thoroughly alive to every social interest of the town and coun-

try, determined to make one happy time for the children during these grasshopper times. Accordingly a committee consisting of Mrs. Hollinger, Mrs. Landis, and Mrs. Bay, went to work in good earnest thus showing their motherly aptitude in providing for the little ones of the community, made all necessary arrangements, and in due time had a very respectable

evergreen in position, in the school house, profusely decorated and literally loaded down with beautiful cornucopias and large, neatly ornamented and embroidered stockings, well filled with candies, nuts, and goodies of all kinds. These, and the material of which the cornucopias and stockings were composed, were bountifully furnished by Messrs. Lundis & Williamson, but very little help having been given by other parties. The expense of the tree was defrayed by Mr. Geo. W. Hollinger. Indeed the profuseness and generosity with which the tree was furnished is very creditable to the liberality of our citizens.

Reaching Ellinwood's handsome school house at an early hour we were astonished to find the house literally jammed from parquet to dome;—not even a seat in the gallery could be obtained for love or money. We have attended many a similar gathering—have often seen the lamps shine "o'er fair women and brave men," but never such a crowd as this. Not our least surprise was the large number of handsome young and married ladies (the committee by no means excepted) who adorn this vicinity.

The exercises of the evening were conducted by Mr. Chalfant with a masterly hand; and considering that the programme which had been previously arranged was "nonecomentable" on account of the failure or lack of promptness on the part of those who had had parts assigned them, the impromptu programme was carried through very creditable and successfully.

A melodeon was on hand, furnished by Miss Etta Avery, and played by J. H. Bross, who conducted the musical exercises of the evening.

The exercises were opened with music—"Let the Master In"—by the choir, consisting of Messrs. Chalfant, Shannon, Geo. Barngrover, J. H. Bross, A. R. Huffman, of Nickerson; Mrs. Royal Harkness, Mrs. John Shimmins, and Mrs. W. W. Shannon.

Opening Prayer by Mr. Shimmins.

Music by Choir.

Opening address—Our Sunday Schools—Mrs. Shimmins.

Solo and Duet—The Old Mountain Pine—by Messrs. Huffman and Bross.

Followed by a very amusing description of Santa Claus by Mr. E. B. Smyth, teacher of the school, during which the tinkling bells

and swift hoofs of reindeer were heard and suddenly in rushed Santa Claus, in the person of Mr. F. W. Warren, covered with fur and frost from head to foot, and loaded down with presents; and was introduced to the audience by Mrs. W. C. Bay, amid much commotion and merriment.

While Santa was behind the curtain placing the presents on the tree a piece of music—Meet Me Darling Josie at the Gate—was sung by Messrs. Bross and Huffman by special request.

Here a short and pithy address was made by Mr. A. McKinney on Christmas Customs.

Music, by the choir.

Then came the unveiling of the Christmas Tree, by Mrs. Bay, who made a very neat and appropriate speech showing the enterprise of Ellinwood in getting up a Christmas Tree in such hard grasshopper times.

Here Rev. Mr. Reed was introduced, who made an address to the children on "Our First Christmas Present." In the meantime the lights were rapidly burning on the tree, and the children were anxiously awaiting.

The distribution of presents, by the committee, assisted by the little Misses Lottie Towlers and Kittie Halsey, as pages, and assisted also by Messrs. Chalfant, Warren and McKinney. Old Santa remembered every one of the 150 children present, by giving each one something to remember him by. Among the amusing incidents of the distribution were the reception, by Misses Carrie Bacon and Ida Forsyth, of immense dolls, dressed in the height of fashion. Mr. Bross' loneliness, too, was remembered; and he was presented with a very neat and pretty young lady in the shape of a doll. A young gentleman from Cowcreek was presented with a penny American flag with which to celebrate the centennial. Simy Avery was presented with a broom, not to show, like a schooner, that he was the fastest young man in town; but to assist him in his prospective house-keeping. Mr. Halsey received a candy marble, and several other important personages received a stick of candy each.

The exercises closed with music—Waiting On, by the choir; and "Larboard Watch Ahoy," by Messrs. Bross and Huffman.

The evening's entertainment closed harmoniously, and everybody went home to enjoy a Merry Christmas.

## EARLY REMINISCENCES

### By Luther Frost of Liberty

**I** CAME to Kansas early during the spring of 1872. Great Bend was then in its infancy, with only a part of what is now the Southern Hotel and two other small houses built.

During the month of August, 1872, some of my neighbors and myself concluded to try our

hand at killing buffalo, as the grasshoppers had destroyed our little crops of sod corn, gardens, etc.

August 13th, we fitted up and started for the present site of Dodge City. While eating dinner near the lone tree on the Arkansas river 25 miles below Fort Dodge, a flock of black-



birds lit down near us and I made a proposition to kill a dozen and have a stew for our suppers as we were out of fresh meat. Some of the boys laughed at the idea of killing a dozen at one shot. I fired one shot and we picked up sixty-two birds and many more were scattered over the prairie that we did not get. We had not finished picking up the birds when the cry of "Indians!" was heard. Everything was packed into the wagons and we started pell-mell for a rocky hill on which we intended to sell our lives as dearly as possible.

After getting in position, we discovered that the supposed Indians were a company of U. S. cavalry that had come down to the river to get water. We were very much relieved, palpitating hearts resumed their natural motion, and trembling nerves were steady as iron.

Our greatest loss was that of the birds which we had left in our haste to get to a place of safety.

16th. Arrived on the hunting ground south of the river and saw a sight new to most of us. As far as we could see, to the east, west and south, was a vast herd of buffalo. We estimated that we could see over 500,000 at one sight. We pitched our camp and made preparations for work; cleaned our rifles; sharpened our knives; and prepared to stretch hides by the wholesale.

17th. Imagine my feelings as I approached the first herd of old bulls. I could not possibly get nearer than three hundred yards. A natural instinct of danger seemed to keep me at a safe distance. I had read of hair-breadth escapes and terrible encounters with these giants of the prairie and was not overly anxious to make a close acquaintance with them. The fact is they looked dangerous; and they would naturally impress a person that they meant business by shaking their heads at him and pawing up great clouds of dust. My first impression was that I had better try my hand at long-range shooting, so if they were inclined to be vicious I could take leg bail and have a good start. Shooting at long range did not pan out very well, as my nerves were a little unsettled, and every time I would fire some old fellow would look toward me, lick out his tongue, and shake his head, as if to say "Don't come any nearer; you might get into trouble." I tried several times to muster up courage and crawl nearer; but at last made up my mind to shoot at long range if it took all summer to get our wagons loaded with hides. The result was I fired about forty shots, killed seven buffalos, and crawled clear out of sight of the herd, leaving over one hundred buffalo standing looking at me as I crawled away. I suppose they imagined that I was a cowardly coyote.

We soon loaded our wagons with hides, recrossed the river, and camped on the site of Dodge City. "Now boys, we can take a good sound sleep tonight, no danger of Indians," was the general word.

I had an aching tooth that would not let me sleep. About midnight I heard a horse approaching. It was a dark night and I could

just see the outlines of a man on the horse. I did not think strange of this as there were several railroaders camped near us and several loose horses had come to our camp. I took my gun and crawled out to the horses, without awakening the boys. The fellow rode up within 20 paces, took hold of a picket rope, and commenced drawing the horse toward him. I could not tell whether it was one of our boys or one of the strays. So to be on the safe side and not shoot an innocent man, I said "Look here, my friend!" He put spurs to his horse and was off like a shot. I sent a couple of caliber 50 after him but he made good his escape. All was confusion in camp. "Shoot him!" came from all sides. Several of our neighbor camps lost horses that night. The thieves made a general raid along the line of the road, and but for aching tooth we would have lost our horses.

We finally got home to Great Bend safe and sound. All but one of our party are still in Barton County.

A little incident happened to one of our Barton County boys which was laughable as well as serious. We were out killing buffalo about seventy miles south of Great Bend. I had purchased a new gun and expected to do wonders in the line of killing buffalo. It was a cold windy morning in November and I could not or did not do good execution. I do not blame the boys for finding fault with me. One of them said that he could do better himself. I gave him the gun and told him to try his hand. He crawled up to a herd of old bulls and knocked three of them down at three successive shots. "That's well done!" the boys said. "He's a rattler! He's after their pelts?" The herd suddenly stampeded. They did not like to see the heels of their companions flying up so rapidly. Our hero followed in rapid pursuit, passing the supposed dead bulls. He had passed them about one hundred paces when one of them rose to his feet and started straight toward our hero. Louy did not hear the approach of his pursuers until the bull was upon him. He turned his head just in time to find himself going one way and the gun the other. The bull paid no attention to him; but kept on his course, to the great relief of Louy and the rest of us. No damage done except a badly torn shirt and coat.

At another time we were camped on the headwaters of the Ninescaw. One morning I took my gun and started to a herd of buffalo that were grazing about a mile from camp. When about a quarter of a mile from camp the boys commenced hollowing at me and motioning for me to come back. Before I could get to camp they had the teams hitched up, and were going at a run down the creek to another camp. I finally came up to them, after a run of about half a mile, and wanted to know what was causing such a stir. The answer was we had better be making tracks if we did not want our hair lifted. The red devils were coming, and there was a host of them, with red blankets and banners flying. I just told my com-

panions that I would go back and meet the whole host and see if they were on the war-path. So I marched boldly back to meet the enemy, which proved to be an innocent buffalo herd marching quietly down toward our camp. The joke was, I had seen the buffalo coming and had an idea that the boys had seen them

and taken them to be Indians, so I could afford to be brave while my companions ran away to reinforce another camp. We finally got things righted and had a good laugh over the affair. One of my companions declares to this day that he saw Indians and could plainly see their bows and arrows.

## GEORGE NELSON MOSES

### Life Story of One of the Bravest Men Who Ever Tramped Across the Santa Fe Trail; an Early Barton County Pioneer

**G**EO. N. MOSES was the tenth of a family of 14 children, seven boys and seven girls. The oldest member of the family died when but a few years of age. George was the youngest of the four brothers who went to the defense of their country when the civil war broke out. The two youngest brothers, Charles of Chicago and E. R. of this city were too young though Charlie, the oldest of the two ran off twice to join the army but was returned home each time. George Moses was born in Olean, New York State April 15, 1844.

After the war he saw service in the border war in Missouri, against the bushwhackers. As member of what was known as the Jim Turley gang under command of Capt. Montgomery, hardly a day passed but what they had exciting adventures. This company was composed of about thirty men all expert horsemen and dead shots and their duties consisted principally of chasing down the guerillas of the rebel army who were raiding all parts of Missouri where northern sympathizers lived.

When the war was over he was still a



G. N. Moses

He died in Great Bend, September 10, 1911. When he was eleven years of age the family moved to Illinois and later moved again to the frontier state of Missouri, locating in Sedalia. The father was a mason and the older boys followed this trade in their younger days. George was just attaining manhood when the civil war broke out and he joined Company I, 15th Illinois Infantry though his older brothers tried to prevent this because of his youth and later with his brother, R. H., re-enlisted, both joining Company C. 146th Illinois Infantry.

young man, just entering manhood. A man with a reputation of being able to take care of himself under any circumstances and a man whose word could be depended upon. He was of a roving disposition at that time and Missouri was becoming too well settled. He wanted to get out into the world as his brothers had done before the war. Striking out for himself he came to Kansas, hunted buffalo all over this section of the state, wandering over the mountains through Colorado and down into New Mexico. Then he returned to Colorado



and met John Tilton of this city in the Gunnison country, stayed there awhile and they returned to Kansas and were working near Salina when a man came out from Salina to get G. N. to guide them to a fit place in this part of the country for the location of a townsite, it being known that he had hunted all over this section and down through the Medicine Lodge and Texas cattle country. A company of Quincy, Ill., citizens had determined to locate a town on the Santa Fe railroad which was building through Kansas and wanted to beat the railroad company to it. G. N. guided them to this section and they located the town as it stands. Fort Zarah at that time had two or three stores and a general colony and the railroad company resenting the efforts of outsiders to start a town instead of their obtaining the townsite attempted to break Great Bend but Great Bend outlasted them all.

He was the first sheriff of the county and did much to keep this a lawabiding community. The "gun men" of the West knew him and that there would be little chance of their intimidating him. For the average "gun man" is not a man who is a killer because he is quicker than others on the draw but because he is trickier and because he intimidates officers of the law. G. N. had been in the camps of the pioneers all over the West. He had met the bad men of Dodge City, of Sargent and of the mining camps of Colorado and always he had been on the side of decency and right. He was never known to be afraid and the bad men were afraid of him because they knew he was not afraid of them.

None of the Moses boys have ever been apologetic or timid. They have been true to their convictions but they have done what they believed to be right regardless of the opinion of others.

An instance of G. N.'s boyhood will show considerably the trend of his character. As a boy of 7 or 8 he was out getting nuts with a couple of his sisters when a woman who was a terror of the neighborhood when it came to demanding what she called her rights came upon them and attempted to frighten the children and did succeed in scaring the little girls pretty badly. G. N.'s anger blazed forth and he dared the woman to come any nearer to attempt to take the sack of nuts which she claimed. He drove her back and took the booty home for booty it was. And throughout his life the dominant trait has been to help others and to take the side of the oppressed. Hundreds of stories might be written about this side of the man's nature.

He was a born leader and though not seeking leadership was naturally selected for this in most enterprises in which he engaged. If he believed a cause was worthy he followed it strong in the assurance of its success sometimes to his financial disadvantage. Naturally he made opponents as all strong men do but never did opponent question his integrity or honesty.

With his marriage in 1873 to Miss Ida Mitchell, step-daughter of Squire Odell, one of the locaters of the town and member of the town company and went into business in Great Bend in the firm of Burton, Odell & Moses. When the Gunnison country in Colorado was opened up Burton withdrew from the firm and went to Gunnison where he opened a store in which G. N. was also interested. A few years later E. R. Moses, then only a young man came here and went to clerking in the Great Bend store and in a short time Mr. Odell retired, the firm becoming G. N. & E. R. Moses, which it remained until about ten years ago when G. N. retired, E. R. buying his interest and naming the firm the E. R. Moses Mercantile Co., which it remains to this day. The firm saw many a bad year in the early days when settlers were few and crops were bad but it went ahead and carried many a man who is rich today but who would have been unable to have farmed at all but for this firm.

He served as mayor of the city three different times, in the 80's, and two terms in the nineties. During the Populists days he was the Republican nominee at one time for the legislature, but was defeated. He served as sheriff of the county several terms, principally in the early days and was the first sheriff of the county.

During the time the cattle trade was coming from Texas to Great Bend and before it shifted to Dodge City a Texas gun fighter became abusive and chased most of the citizens off the street while he ran the town. The marshal and assistant considered discretion the better part of valor and hid out to find G. N. while the gun fighter amused himself while sitting on his pony by shooting at the occasional citizen who showed in sight. G. N. was informed of the circumstance and telling the marshal to stay where he could come into the fight in case he was shot walked down the street and up to the Old Rome where the tough man was viewing the country. The man started swinging his gun hand towards G. N. when the latter spoke to him pleasantly enough and he stopped to see what was coming next. G. N. wasn't trying to pull a gun and still kept coming. It puzzled him. As the sheriff got near enough he reached up his hand as thought to shake hands and the next minute the gun man was off his pony and G. N.'s grip on his shoulder made him forget all his belligerency. G. N. turned him over to the marshal after a lecture on the matter of getting drunk and making a fool of himself and the gun man when turned loose made a bee line back to Texas where they didn't have sheriffs who were foolish enough to go around without drawing a gun on sight.

The town of Sargent, now Coolidge, was for a few months the toughest place in the west. It was when the Santa Fe construction camp was located there and the gamblers, painted women and thugs were robbing the several hundred

railroad laborers. One of the gamblers had some months before borrowed two hundred dollars from G. N. who pitied his condition and thought him a man of his word. G. N. while prospecting in the west heard of the town of Sargent and stopped there finding his man running a saloon. He broached the subject of being paid and the man who had joined the gang of ruffians running the town repudiated the debt and said he didn't intend to pay it. It made G. N. mad and he kicked him out of the place and took charge of the saloon himself. We believe that Jim Gainsford was with him at the time. The saloon man went out and gathered his gang and went back to fix G. N. The latter was ready and had Gainsford stationed behind the door. When the gang filed in G. N. trained two guns on them and invited them to get out and stay out. Gainsford was also there and they got. He ran the saloon for two days, took in \$68 and then turned it back to the owner and said that he had collected the interest due at least. While in Sargeant he heard the story of an old man who had been robbed of his team by the gamblers. G. N.'s sympathy was aroused for the old man and going with the latter to the camp corral had the old man point out the team. They hitched it up and the old man started to drive out of the town. One of the gang saw the man on the front seat of the wagon and notified others of the gang and they started to take the team away from the old fellow. As they got up to the rig they found G. N. sitting on the back end of the wagon load, his needle gun across his knees and after expostulating a little gave up the claim to ownership of the rig and the old man drove out of town. G. N. accompanied him a little ways and then came back. They didn't care to tackle him. D. N. Heizer, then a surveyor for the Santa Fe related this story.

E. R. Moses tells a story of the time he went to Gunnison to visit his brother George. The town was really two towns divided by a vacant area and in this section there was a large lumber yard. G. N. lived across on the other side from the store. The first night of E. R.'s visit he waited until late at night to accompany G. N. home. The latter was counting up the money and placing it in a sack in his pocket when E. R. noticed a man peering in the window. He spoke to G. N. about the matter but he said he guessed it didn't amount to much. They started home and as they got to the lumber yard G. N. started on through his accustomed way instead of going around. He had given E. R. a gun to carry from the store and as they got in the lumber yard they noticed the two men standing back in the shadows. G. N. walked straight towards them with his gun ready for action and E. R. following with some trepidation. The man backed to one side and they passed on and were not molested. But that was enough of the wild Gunnison country for E. R. and he returned home in a day or two.

Early day sheriffs had their own concep-

tions of the forms of law and one of the returns made by G. N. as first sheriff of the county is held as a treasure by a prominent state official into whose possession it passed some years ago. A horse thief came to Barton county and committed some depredations which resulted in a warrant being sworn out for his arrest. G. N. took the warrant and started north after the thief. Seventy-two hours later he returned to Great Bend late at night, without any rest from the time he had started, making the whole trip in the saddle. Getting in late at night, tired and worn out from the trip and nearly dead for want of sleep he went into the justice of the peace office and left the warrant writing across the same, "Received this warrant blank date and served same by shooting the....." The facts of the story were that G. N. went to Hays City where he induced a comrade of the man wanted to confess that the man was in that part of the country and then taking his deputy rode out to cow camp where he found the man. As they rode over the hill and down towards the wagons the man they were after jumped up and grabbing a gun commenced shooting at them. A minute later he died suddenly and the trip home was begun. The cowboys heard the firing and started to investigate and threatened to kill the sheriff and his deputy. Thoroughly aroused now the sheriff sent the deputy back a little way, rode up to the cowboys and invited them to start the proceedings at once if they felt it necessary. They decided that monkeying with the law would be unpopular and the sheriff and deputy rode home.

From the trend of these stories it might appear that G. N. was of a tough order but his history is different. Men were men in those days and had hard work to perform but the testimony of his old comrades has always been that G. N. stood for the moral things and was himself a moral man.

The first time Ed Tyler, W. W. Hartshorn, Louis and Jerry Frey ever met G. N. Moses was on October 16th, 1871. They drove from Quincy, Ill. to this point. G. N. Moses, Hy and Jim Bickerdyke and John Tilton were camped on the ground where the Fair Building now stands. They had hauled a load of lumber from Russell on the U. P. railroad and built a shack by putting up some posts and built the shack like a tight board fence there being a room about the size square of the length of the board and had been added to until there were several rooms about, four. The Moses party were glad to meet them and allowed them the use of half the shack until they could do better. At that time there was no railroad and little money. There were plenty of buffalo and other game for meat, but there was little else to eat. The Hubbard store on the Walnut was the only one for miles, the next nearest being on the U. P. north, 45 miles, and nothing south or west. When the Quincy crowd arrived here G. N. Moses wore an army hat, shirt and coat

and buckskin pants and the others were clad something like G. N.

Up to that time there had been no buffalos killed about here for the hides only, as it would not pay to haul them to the U. P. for the price offered and there were very few horses to do the hauling. Later a good many cattle were used. However, buffalo hides were used for partitions in the shack and many other places for which they had no lumber. One day in the fall of 1871 G. N. Moses and Ed Tyler were sitting in a window of the old Southern hotel, situated where the Briakman Bank is now situated. The hotel had not been finished at that time and even the frames in. They were looking down the trail toward Fort Zarah and they noticed something coming west. It was decided that it was not a man, a buffalo or a horse, but finally it developed that it was a man carrying an umbrella and when he arrived they found that it was Judge Tom Morton of Illinois. He was dressed in broadcloth, white shirt, collar and cuffs, blackened boots, in fact was in regular town style. He had come to Fort Zarah with a bunch of soldiers from the east. He stopped here with the camp and in a few days he had bought Ed Tyler's team, also another team for one of the Quiney party and suggested to G. N. Moses that they

go out on a regular buffalo hunt. They left this point in December, 1871 and went to the southwest where the buffalo were plentiful and they got as far as the Medicine Lodge country before returning. From that time they made buffalo hunting a regular business and hundreds of hides were ready to ship from here when the Santa Fe railroad arrived. The first hunting party was composed of G. N. Moses, John Tilton, Hy Bickerdyke and Judge Morton. Messrs. Moses and Tilton continued it for a few days. Bickerdyke went west after a year or two and Judge Morton was a resident of Great Bend until the late seventies.

Moses and Tilton in those days had traveled over many miles of the west and before coming here they had first met in Colorado and traveled a foot over most of the country that has developed so well. From Colorado they came to about where Salina is and from there here. From the time they met in Colorado they have been bosom friends at all times. Prior to the time of the meeting of Moses and Tilton in Colorado Mr. Moses had gone from Sedalia, Mo., where he had been a peace officer after the war part of the time and was also a deputy United States marshal to Arizona and New Mexico where he spent some years looking over that country.

## FIRST CENSUS OF BARTON COUNTY 1872

The names included in this list are those of people who resided in this county in the spring of 1872. The work of securing this information was done by D. N. Heizer who now resides at Colorado Springs, Colorado. It was compulsory to get these names before the county could be organized. The following gives the name, age and a description of the land owned by each individual settler. Some of the names in this list are of people who have long since left this part of the county, but will be remembered by those who were here when the county was organized:

John Hartley, 38.  
Henry Cogle, 20.  
John W. Meltor, 27.  
Myron S. VanPelt, 25.  
David E. Benedict, 23.  
Elvin R. Benedict, 22.  
Arsula M. Benedict, 1.  
Jul. P. Bissel, 24, sec. 10, se qr 19-13w.  
Ella M. Bissel, 24.  
Minnie Bissel, 4.  
Anna Bissel, 2.  
Cora Bissel, 1.  
David A. Greever, 23, sec. 34, nw qr 19 sr, 12w.  
Samuel Davis, 21.  
E. J. Dodge, 50, sec. 10, w. hf sw qr 19, se 15w.  
Elizabeth Dodge, 43.  
W. Dodge, 24, se qr s 4.  
Don Dodge, 22, sec. 10, e hf sw qr w hf se qr.

Jennie Dodge 17.  
Lizzie Dodge, 15.  
John Dodge, 13.  
Maggie Dodge, 8.  
Mary Dodge, 2.  
Dave Dobson, 22.  
Charles E. Dodge, 26, sec. 9, s qr (the writing at this point in the list is obliterated.)  
T. Scherzmyer, 22.  
Ira Lake, 47.  
A. C. Moses, 45, sec. 10 nw qr 19, sr 13 w.  
Naomi A. Moses, 32, sec. 9, ne qr 19 sr, 13 w.  
Arthur Moses, 21, sec. 10, ne qr 19, sr, 13 w.  
Clayton L. Moses, 19, sec. 9, nw qr 19 sr, 13 w.  
Edward W. Moses, 16.  
William A. Moses, 14.  
Lincoln E. Moses, 11.  
Cassius M. Moses, 7.  
Seward E. Moses, 4.  
Edward W. Dewey, 22 sec. 4, sw qr.  
Hattie A. Dewey, 20.  
Frank H. Dewey, 2.  
William Dewey, 74.  
Evan Thornburg, 44, sec. 4, 20-14 w.  
Julia A. Thornburg, 32.  
John S. Thornburg, 10.  
William Thornburg, 1.  
John McMullen, 35.  
Lizzie McMullen, 32.  
John McMullen, Jr., 13.  
James McMullen, 4.  
Benjamin McMullen, 3.

- U. S. Hutchinson, 23.  
 H. C. Fox, 55, sec. 26, nw qr 20-15.  
 U. C. Bryant, 27.  
 J. F. Carter, 33, sec 26, sw qr 20-15.  
 Sandy Brown, 21.  
 Thomas Sublett, 22.  
 Lester Horn, 29.  
 J. D. Carpenter, 39, sec. 26, ne qr 20-15.  
 John W. Smith, 30, sec. 26, se qr 20-15.  
 F. C. Polk, 26.  
 L. M. Carter, 28.  
 A. C. Hunter, 22.  
 R. C. Graves, Jr., 21.  
 E. W. Hoch, 23, (afterwards became gov-  
 ernor of the the State of Kansas.)  
 C. H. Milton, 24.  
 C. H. Bates, 22.  
 J. A. Arnold, 21.  
 W. F. Hoch, 27.  
 Geo. M. Jackson, 31.  
 Bland Searce, 21.  
 Henry Lytle, 25.  
 Wm. M. Smith, 32.  
 M. L. Burks, 22.  
 Robert Heckle, 23.  
 Wm. Bahler, 24, sec. 14, ne qr 19-14.  
 John Reinecke, 30, sec. 10, se qr 19-14.  
 Mary Reinecke, 28.  
 Anna Reinecke, 4.  
 Louisa Reinecke, 2.  
 Mary Reinecke, 1.  
 Henry Schultz, 30, sec. 10 ne qr 19-14.  
 Wilhelmina Schultz, 28.  
 Louisa Schultz, 3.  
 Levi H. Lusk, 39, sec. 3 sw qr and ne qr sec.  
 9 and sec. 10, nw qr 19-14.  
 Orson Howard, 43, sec 6, nw qr 19-13.  
 B. F. Putman, 40, sec 4, sw qr, all of sec.  
 5 but ne qr.  
 O. Buckner, 35, sec. se 14.  
 M. Falkner, 30, sec 9, nw qr r 14.  
 Thomas McCoughan, 22.  
 James, Holland, 35.  
 Sarah Holland, 26.  
 Wm. H. Odell, 39, sec. 30, ne qr 10-3.  
 Melda Odell, 37.  
 George H. Odell, 17.  
 Charles S. Odell, 15.  
 Edward Odell, 11.  
 Thomas Mitchell, 14.  
 Ida A. Mitchell.  
 Mary B. Mitchell, 14.  
 Jessie Odell, 4.  
 John Typer, 40.  
 L. C. Zollairs, 22.  
 Charlotte Zollairs, 22.  
 Ellsworth Zollairs, 10.  
 J. H. Taylor, 35.  
 S. H. Hedrick, 24, sec. 6, ne qr 19-14.  
 Lucy A. Hedrick, 22.  
 Wm. L. Hedrick, 1.  
 James Hart, 23.  
 Charles Roubush, 22, sec. 28, se qr 18-15.  
 George Reynolds, 25.  
 M. Brining, 21, sec. 30, se qr 18-15.  
 Charles B. Worden, 28, sec. 34, n hf nw qr  
 s. hf sw qr, sec 27.  
 C. F. Brining, 48, sec. 30, ne. qr 18-15.  
 Christina Brining, 44.  
 Fred Brining, 8.  
 Henry Brining, 5.  
 Rosa Brining, 11.  
 Christina Brining, 14.  
 Wm. W. Graham, 22, sec. 26 s. hf, sw qr and  
 n. hf nw qr sec 35.  
 Mary J. Graham, 18.  
 Marsene Graves, 35, sec. 28, n hf sw qr and  
 s hf nw qr.  
 Julia Graves, 34.  
 Louisa Graves, 6.  
 Aster Graves, 2.  
 Henry Cyr, 22.  
 Andrew Albright, 46, sec. 29, nw. qr 18-15.  
 Wilhelmina Albright, 51.  
 Champ Mayfield.  
 Wm. Mayfield.  
 James Smith,  
 Sol. Basham.  
 Prudence Eller, 33.  
 Alex Keller, 33.  
 Margurite Keller, 12.  
 Margurite Keller, 12.  
 Catherine Keller, 8.  
 Charles H. Keller, 2.  
 James S. Hill, 35.  
 George Brandagee, 26.  
 Henry Thatcher, 23.  
 W. Stotts, 23.  
 E. C. Campbell, 33.  
 P. Q. Myers, 35.  
 George Lane, 22.  
 Hiram Collan, 25.  
 Henry Collan, 35.  
 A. L. Choat, 36.  
 L. T. Hedrick, 22.  
 W. G. Allen, 32.  
 Richard Sutton, 23.  
 Andrew Proctor, 22.  
 Nathan Field, 24, sec. 31, se qr 8-14.  
 George H. Barry, 24, sec. 33, sw 14.  
 Thomas Gibson 22, sec. 5, ne qr 19-14.  
 Henry Myers, 35, sec. 4, nw. qr 19-14.  
 William Yontz, 30, sec. 4, ne. qr 19-14.  
 F. Warring, sec. 34, s hf, sw qr 18-14.  
 Ed Mecklem 22, sec. 3, nw. qr 19-14.  
 George F. Mecklem, 45, sec. 3, ne qr 19-14.  
 Antone Wilke, 25, sec. 3, se qr.  
 A. H. Annis, 49, sec. 3, sw, 19-14.  
 Sylvia A. Annis, 48.  
 E. N. Swan, 23, sec. 11, s hf sw qr 19-14.  
 Ellen Swan, 19.  
 J. Moffat, 34, sec. 2, nw. qr 19-14.  
 R. Moffat, 37, sec. 2, ne qr 19-14.  
 Jessie, Swan, 1.  
 N. Douglass, 49, sec. 14, s hf, sw qr and s  
 hf of e qr.  
 William L. Cotton, 27, sec. 14, n hf sw qr and  
 n hf se qr 19-14.  
 William C. Gibson, 47 sec. 14, ne qr.  
 Mary A. Gibson, 47.  
 Joseph Gibson, 12.  
 James Gibson, 8.  
 Charles F. Kinney, 30, sec. 12, nw qr 19-14 w.  
 Marguerite J. Kinney, 18.



- Charles N. Kinney, 1.  
 Nate McKown, 35, sec. 12, sw qr.  
 Martha McKown, 3.  
 Nancy McKown, 3.  
 Hiram McKown, 1.  
 James McRoberts, 23, sec. 12, e. hf of ne qr.  
 Samantha McRoberts, 20.  
 Florence McRoberts, 1.  
 John Gruber, 33, sec. 12, se. qr 19-14.  
 Catherine Gruber, 32.  
 Antone Gruber, 12.  
 Mar Gruber, 4.  
 Julius Both, 26, sec. 20, n. hf sw, qr and s. hf nw qr 19-15 w.  
 Anna Both, 24.  
 Matilda Both, 2.  
 Henry Gien, 45, sec. 8, nw. qr 19-13.  
 Elizabeth Gien, 40.  
 Harry Gien, 12.  
 Lizzie Gien, 9.  
 John Gien, 5.  
 Laura Gien, 18.  
 August Myers, 21, sec. 12, w. hf ne. qr 19-14.  
 Fred Strohmyer, 30, sec. 4, ne qr e. hf.  
 Frank Shyber, 27, sec. 4, nw. qr e. hf.  
 Nick Raefler, 24, sec. 4, ne. qr w. hf.  
 J. hn Cook, 33, sec. 8, e. hf nw, qr w. hf ne qr.  
 William Cook, 23, sec. 8, sw qr.  
 Louisa Cook, 26.  
 John Cook, 5.  
 George Cook, 4.  
 William Cook, 3.  
 Henry Cook, 1.  
 Jewel Lusher, 29, sec. 4, w. hf nw, qr.  
 James Moreland, 30, sec. 7, se. qr.  
 William Gilpin, 30, sec. 6, e. hf se. qr.  
 John Gilpin, 28, sec. 6, w. hf se. qr and e. hf sw, qr.  
 John Dennis, 36, sec. 5, se. qr 19-13.  
 Nancy Dennis, 33.  
 Zura Cunningham, 11.  
 James Cunningham, 10.  
 Andrew Godsien, 33.  
 Clayton Zanzal s, 37.  
 John W. Light, 24.  
 Zack Light, 19.  
 James Edwards, 19.  
 Clem Jones, 33.  
 Isaac Barry, 25, sec. 32, ne. qr 19-12.  
 Nettie Buckbee, 20.  
 Titus Buckbee, 24.  
 Michael Stanto, 27, sec. 26, s. hf se qr sec 35, n. hf ne. qr 18-15 w.  
 A. W. Strong, 51, sec. 28, se qr 19-12  
 Sarah C. Strong, 48.  
 Anna C. Strong, 17.  
 Wilkins A. Strong, 10.  
 R. A. Avery, 57.  
 Henry Beal, 28, sec. 14, sw. qr 19-15.  
 Sydney Sterling, 22, colored.  
 Charles Williams, 30, colored.  
 Frank Day, 26, sec. 34, ne. qr 19-13 w.  
 Percy Preston, 23.  
 John Roberts, 28.  
 Harland B. Truesdell, 23, sec. 28, sw. qr 19-13.  
 J. P. Brady, 26.  
 H. Davis, 27.  
 Truman Foster, 30.  
 Phillip Matthews, 35.  
 John Morris, 24.  
 John Proct r, 25, sec. 34, n. hf sw, qr and n. hf se. qr 19-12.  
 John Williams, 23.  
 James Mulligan, 38.  
 E. Shaffer, 23.  
 James McWilliams, 10.  
 S. G. Cram, 23, sec. 26, nw. qr 19-12.  
 Cain Davis, 22.  
 J. T. Walker, 22, sec. 24, ne. qr 19-12.  
 Dave Grever, 23, sec. 32 nw qr 19-12.  
 M. S. Strew, 33.  
 Sudan Strew, 23.  
 James Howard, 28, sec. 34, s. hf and n. hf 19-12.  
 Thomas Towers, 21, sec. 20.  
 Edward Reynolds, 36, sec. 14.  
 Mary Reynolds, 5.  
 Francis Reynolds, 21.  
 J. L. Reynolds, 41, sec. 23, w. hf.  
 Lydia M. Reynolds, 28.  
 Ada B. Reynolds, 12.  
 J. W. Mahan, 22.  
 James Cornwall, 57.  
 Jessie Morgan, 37.  
 John Riley, 24, sec. 24, se. qr 19-12.  
 A. J. Jamison, 36.  
 John L. Roberts, 34, sec. 24, sw. 19-12.  
 J. A. Moore, 24, sec. 24, nw. qr 19-12.  
 Ed Martz, 37.  
 J. P. Farrow.  
 E. Waring, 32, sec. 34, sw. ffr 18-14 w.  
 Frank Phillips, 22, sec. 26, ne. qr 19-14.  
 Dave T. Spines, 27, sec. 26, sw. qr 19-14.  
 John A. Harbour, 22, se. 6, ne. qr 19-13.  
 S. S. Dennis, 16, sec. 22, se. qr 19-13.  
 Bettie Dennis, 38.  
 Belle Dennis, 17.  
 Allen Dennis, 13.  
 Susan Dennis, 15.  
 McClellan Dennis, 9.  
 Prudence Dennis, 8.  
 Bettie Dennis, 7.  
 Emma Dennis, 6.  
 Nathaniel Dennis, 5, nw. qr sec. 20-19-14.  
 Nancy J. Dennis, 4.  
 Sheridan Dennis, 3.  
 Logan Dennis, 2.  
 James A. McClellan, 29, sec. 20, ne. qr 19-13.  
 Lue A. McClellan, 27.  
 Fred A. McClellan, 3.  
 Edgar A. McClellan, 1.  
 Alfred Bellfield, 55.  
 Mrs. Bellfield, 50.  
 Laura Bellfield, 12.  
 Edward Bellfield, 10.  
 John Bellfield, 7.  
 Robert Bellfield, 1.  
 Charles Bellfield, 14.  
 James R. Bickerdyke, 22, sec. 18, se. qr. 19-13  
 Hiram Bickerdyke, sec. 32, sw. qr.  
 George Moses, 27, sec. 32, nw. qr.  
 John Tilton, 28, sec. 32, ne. qr.  
 Warren Peck, 24, sec. 20, nw. qr.



- Nicholas Hauser, 25, sec. 20 se. qr.  
 Mrs. Addie Hauser, 23.  
 George Hauser, 1.  
 Nelson Carpenter, 35.  
 Mary E. Carpenter, 28.  
 Merrill Carpenter, 3.  
 John W. Pascoe, 38, sec. 18, nw. qr 19-13.  
 Grace Pascoe.  
 Rebekah Pascoe, 18.  
 Paul J. Pascoe, 11.  
 Libby Pascoe, 9.  
 Worth J. Pascoe, 5.  
 Maria L. Pascoe, 3.  
 Clara Pascoe, 1.  
 E. L. Morphy, 31, sec. 30, nw. qr 19-13.  
 A. B. Robinson, 28, sec. 2, sw. qr 20-14.  
 Albert Sloan, 31, sec. 26, se. qr 19-14.  
 R. Taylor, 25, (the first lumberman in the country.)  
 C. A. Houston, 31.  
 S. S. Heath, 42.  
 William Ditts, 24.  
 George Yorksall, 22, sec. 18, ne. qr 19-13.  
 Alva Stanton, 23.  
 John Shepard, 22.  
 Simon Rilter, 42.  
 Erastus Propper, 22.  
 Caroline Rilter, 26.  
 Dona Rilter, 11.  
 Aliie Propper, 22.  
 Limon Wilsey, 20.  
 Frank Emery, 24.  
 Thomas Decker, 26.  
 Flora Propper, 5.  
 John D. Glenn, 45, sec. 20, sw. qr 19-13.  
 Clara M. Glenn, 45.  
 Mack B. Glenn, 18.  
 Mary E. Glenn, 15.  
 Leliah Glenn, 13.  
 Wm. T. Glenn, 11.  
 Byron O. Glenn, 8.  
 Kittie Glenn, 5.  
 Wm. J. Morgan.  
 Morgan Morgan.  
 John M. Williams.  
 Ivan Jones.  
 Wm. James.  
 Elias Davis.  
 Eleanor Burnsides, 21.  
 Wm. Bell.  
 Richard E. Jones.  
 Daniel Gammon.  
 Charles Zeiber, 22, sec. 18, sw. qr 19-13.  
 Henry Shaffer, 38, sec. 30, se. qr.  
 Mina Shaffer, 35.  
 August Shaffer, 13.  
 Martha Shaffer, 2.  
 Henry Shridde, 35, sec. 6, n. hf u. qr and n. hf ne. qr 20-13.  
 Mary Shridde, 30.  
 Anna Shridde, 13.  
 Sophia, Shridde, 7.  
 Henry Shridde, 4.  
 William Shridde, 1.  
 William H. Lette, 25.  
 A. A. Hurd, 25.  
 Theo. Hurd, 50.  
 James McFarren, 32.  
 G. L. Brinkman, 31.  
 James Rice, 32.  
 Mrs. Rice.  
 Louis P. Frey, 27, sec. 24, se. qr 19-14.  
 Kate Frey, 27.  
 Wm. W. Hartshorn, 25, sec. 2, ne. qr.  
 Lucy Hartshorn, 22.  
 Eliza Hartshorn, 60, sec. 10, nw. qr 20-14.  
 Charles Ross, 5.  
 Henry Fruit, 29, sec. 10, ne. qr 20-14.  
 James G. Pounds, 22, sec. 22, se. qr 19-14.  
 Thomas Frey, 25, sec. 24, sw. qr 19-14.  
 Paul Schneck, 33, sec. 24, ne. qr 19-14.  
 Melissa Schneck, 28.  
 Leona Schneck, 4.  
 Lizzie Schneck, 2.  
 Luther Frost, 22, sec. 9, se. qr 20-14.  
 Lydia E. Frost 21.  
 Arthur Frost, 1.  
 Reuben Fry, 32, sec. 24, nw. qr 19-14.  
 Alice Frey, 24.  
 Arthur Frey 4.  
 Antone Brenner, 28.  
 Edward Tyler, 28, sec. 2, nw. qr 20-14.  
 Lydia Tyler, 26.  
 Leroy Tyler, 5.  
 Carrie Tyler, 3.  
 Barnum Tyler, 1.  
 A. Giddons, 24, sec. 34, se. qr 19-14.  
 Robert Johnson, 30.  
 Dan Rasure.  
 F. Word.  
 E. H. Vauness, 28.  
 M. Michael.  
 A. Parker.  
 J. McRea.  
 Charles Cemester.  
 N. C. Calhoun.  
 M. J. Koones.  
 Ed. S. Stone, 28.  
 G. L. Stone, 40, sec. 32 se. 19-13.  
 Jane Stone, 38.  
 Georgia Stone, 16.  
 Dolla Stone, 14.  
 Josie Stone, 8.  
 C. W. Wiley, 38.  
 Emma P. Wiley, 28.  
 Ida B. Wiley, 10.  
 William Bruner, 45.  
 Thomas Keogh, 25.  
 James Keogh, 28.  
 Charles Minor, 23.  
 Frank Wo d, 35.  
 J. C. Brien, 37.  
 George Wilkins, 26.  
 Abe. Cutler, 38.  
 Louisa Cutler, 30.  
 George Cutler, 12.  
 Captain Eddy, wife and child.  
 Charles Adams, 24.  
 James P. Davis, 38.  
 James O'Neil, 21.  
 David Wheeler, 22.  
 John Bagley, 35.  
 M. E. Welsh, 28.  
 Maggie S. Welsh, 27.

- Manford Welsh, 3.  
 Robert Furrough, 33.  
 Susan J. Furrow, 33.  
 William N. Furrow, 12.  
 Ida B. Furrow, 10.  
 Alice I. Furrow, 4.  
 Clara E. Furrow, 1.  
 D. Bowles, 22.  
 W. R. Smith, 28.  
 George Murray, 22.  
 John Relay, 24.  
 F. E. Price, 35.  
 Harry Lovete, 25.  
 Sarah Carver, 25.  
 Jennie, Ziegler, 17.  
 George Towers, 21, sec. 12, se. qr 19-13.  
 Maria A. Towers, 28.  
 Little Towers, 5.  
 Frank Towers, 3.  
 E. V. Renger, 40, sec. 20, sw. qr 19-12.  
 Maria Renger, 30.  
 Emmet Renger, 3.  
 Ella Renger, 3.  
 Marguerite Renger, 80.  
 Andrew McKinney, 36, sec. 28, ne. qr 19-12.  
 Maria McKinney, 30.  
 Liberty McKinney, 11.  
 Mary B. McKinney, 7.  
 Frank McKinney, 7.  
 Charles McKinney, 4.  
 Flora McKinney, 1.  
 Arthur V. Halley, 27, sec. 30, sw. qr 19-11.  
 George Halley, 22, sec. 30, se. qr 19-11.  
 William Hager, 24, sec. 26, se. qr 19-12.  
 John Halpin, 40.  
 Cyrus Winston, 24.  
 A. Burlinson, 29, sec. 32 nw. qr 19-11.  
 Mrs. W. W. Burlinson, 28.  
 Sarah J. Burlinson, 3.  
 Thomas Corbitt, 60, sec. 20, sw. qr 19-11.  
 Albert G. Corbitt, 30, sec. 20, se. qr.  
 Mrs. Corbitt, 60.  
 Miss Corbitt, 21, sec. 20, nw. qr.  
 Erastus Carriens, 30, sec. 6, n. hf ne. qr and  
 se. qr of ne. qr and ne. qr of the n qr 20-11.  
 William H. Grant, 21, sec. 32 ne. qr 19-11.  
 Wilton W. Halsey, 30, sec. 32, sw. qr 19-11.  
 Mary Halsey, 27.  
 Ellsworth Halsey, 11.  
 Wallace Halsey, 5.  
 Estella Halsey, 2.  
 W. W. Halsey, 32, sec. 32, se. qr 19-11.  
 Mary P. Halsey, 30.  
 Eliza C. Halsey, 4.  
 William C. Halsey, 2.  
 Michael Murphy, 26.  
 George Laws, 20.  
 John Lissur, 22.  
 Lawrence Baily, 18.  
 Alonzo Baily, 26.  
 James Broderick, 28.  
 James McCarthy, 23.  
 William Burke, 24.  
 Marion Whitney, 22.  
 W. H. Smith, 24.  
 Lee M. Collins, 35, sec. 1, n. hf se. qr and s.  
 hf ne. qr 20-11 w.  
 Laff Shouse, 23, sec. 12, nw. qr 20-11.  
 Sarah Shouse, 18.  
 Laff Shouse, Jr., 1.  
 Emmanuel Dubbs, 29.  
 Noah Broombaugh, 25.  
 Francis Broombaugh, 21.  
 Angelina Dubbs, 21, wife and child.  
 Luella Broombaugh, 2.  
 John Dinsmore, 21.  
 M. Black, 30, sec. 2, w. hf, sw. qr and s hf  
 nw. qr 20-11.  
 J. M. Reaugh, 53, sec. 10, ne. qr 20-11.  
 Melissa Reaugh, 47.  
 John T. Reaugh, 25.  
 Clarke Reaugh, 22.  
 Ellen Reaugh, 19.  
 Addie Reaugh, 17.  
 Laura Reaugh, 29.  
 David Reaugh, 4.  
 E. L. Houston, 32, sec. 12, ne. qr 20-11.  
 Carrie Houston, 30.  
 James W. Houston, 7.  
 Frank Houston, 2.  
 Lena Houston, 1.  
 Charles Meacham, 35, sec. 12, se. qr 20-11.  
 Mary Meacham, 34, (five girls and one boy.)  
 Lute Bannon, sec. 12, sw. qr 20-11.  
 Robert Dickenson, 42, sec. 2, ne. qr 20-11.  
 Henry Huffines, 32, sec. 22, ne. qr 10-14.  
 S. S. Hutchinson, 36, sec. 34, se. qr 19-11.  
 William W. Hutchison, 12.  
 C. L. V. Hutchison, 10.  
 L. L. Hutchison, 7.  
 J. C. Hutchison, 1.  
 Dan Dodge, Sr., 53, sec. 34, sw. qr 19-11.  
 Dan Dodge, Jr., 7.  
 Josiah Carr, 28, sec. 34, nw. qr 19-11.  
 Elizabeth Carr, 25.  
 Ollie Belle Carr, 5.  
 Hattie Carr, 3.  
 William Wiley, 23, sec. 34, ne. qr 10-11.  
 Seth D. Hubbard, 24.  
 C. J. Hilt, 21.  
 T. L. Morton, 35, sec. 14, se. qr 19-15.  
 C. J. Whitney, 23.  
 W. Leuk, 31, sec. 32.  
 Nelson H. Ritchie, 32, sec. 32, se. qr.  
 Henry Dacus, 24.  
 A. J. Jones, 30.  
 J. C. Fairchild, 22.  
 Michael Riney, 21.  
 Charles Anderson, 27.  
 Peter Brown, 29.  
 John Riney, 28.  
 Clea Riney, 30.  
 J. C. Martin, 60.  
 B. Cullen, 35.  
 Miram Brooks, 26.  
 Ellen Brooks.  
 Carrie E. Brooks.  
 William Magova, 28.  
 Martha A. Smith, 36.  
 Thomas T. Smith, 13.  
 Anna C. Smith, 11.  
 Charles B. Smith, .  
 James L. Smith, 4.  
 Rasa Smith, 1.

Leslie B. Smith, 7.  
 Dannie Jackson, 28.  
 James Jackson, 7.  
 Thomas Jackson, 4.  
 William Cornwall, 14.  
 Bettie Cornwall, 12.  
 Thomas Cornwall, 18.  
 Mrs. Cornwall, 50.

George Cooper, 22.  
 T. Baker, 25.  
 R. C. Jackson, 33.  
 S. E. Day, wife and two children.  
 Thomas King, 40.  
 Biddie King, 38.  
 Thomas Carroll, 8.

## OFFICIALS OF BARTON COUNTY FROM 1872 TO 1912

The following list gives the names of all people who have served Barton County in public offices since the county was organized in 1872, together with the time of their election or appointment:

### COMMISSIONERS—FIRST DISTRICT.

May 16, 1872—Thomas L. Morris—Appointed special commissioner by Governor James M. Harvey.

July 1, 1872—M. W. Halsey.  
 Nov. 5, 1872—M. W. Halsey.  
 Nov. 4, 1873—J. L. Roberts—Resigned.  
 Nov. 3, 1874—A. R. Heckensmith—Appointed May 29, 1875 to fill the vacancy caused by resignation of J. L. Roberts.  
 Nov. 2, 1875—Wm. Wintermantel.  
 Nov. 6, 1877—H. S. Williams.  
 Nov. 5, 1878—J. T. Spring.  
 Nov. 8, 1881—H. J. Roetzel.  
 Nov. 4, 1884—H. J. Roetzel—Resigned.  
 Jan. 17, 1887—C. A. Willms—Appointed to fill vacancy caused by the resignation of H. J. Roetzel.

Nov. 8, 1887—Henry Langford.  
 Nov. 4, 1890—Joseph Strothman.  
 Nov. 7, 1893—C. D. Montgomery.  
 Nov. 3, 1896—Matt Dick.  
 Nov. 7, 1899—Matt Dick.  
 Nov. 4, 1902—W. B. Pickerell.  
 Nov. 3, 1906—N. W. Klepper.  
 Nov. 8, 1910—Matt Dick.

### COMMISSIONERS—SECOND DISTRICT.

May 16, 1872—John H. Hubbard—Appointed special commissioner by Governor James M. Harvey.

July 1, 1872—John Cook.  
 Nov. 5, 1872—John Cook.  
 Nov. 4, 1873—John M. Taylor.  
 Nov. 3, 1874—C. M. Fessler—Resigned June 17, 1875.  
 June 17, 1875—S. S. Dennis—Appointed to fill vacancy caused by resignation of C. M. Fessler.

Nov. 2, 1875—G. N. Moses.  
 Nov. 6, 1877—P. G. Bonewitz.  
 Nov. 4, 1879—R. C. Bailey.  
 Nov. 7, 1882—J. K. Humphrey.  
 Nov. 3, 1885—W. W. Carney.  
 Nov. 6, 1888—G. N. Moses.  
 Nov. 3, 1891—C. L. Moses.  
 Nov. 6, 1894—C. L. Moses.  
 Nov. 7, 1897—Theodore Griffith.  
 Nov. 7, 1899—Chas. E. Dodge—Appointed to

fill vacancy caused by resignation of Theo. Griffith.

Nov. 6, 1900—S. S. Shattuck.  
 Nov. 3, 1908—Frank Wood.

### COMMISSIONERS—THIRD DISTRICT.

May 16, 1872—Geo. M. Berry—Appointed special commissioner by Governor James M. Harvey.

July 1, 1872—L. H. Lusk.  
 Nov. 5, 1872—L. H. Lusk.  
 Nov. 4, 1873—C. B. Worden.  
 Nov. 2, 1875—J. Zimmer.  
 Nov. 6, 1877—B. I. Dawson.  
 Nov. 2, 1880—C. Williams.  
 Nov. 6, 1883—Henry Schwier.  
 Nov. 2, 1886—Henry Schwier.  
 Nov. 8, 1889—C. Coughlin.  
 Oct. 17, 1891—D. O. Gray—Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of C. Coughlin.  
 Nov. 3, 1891—W. P. Bruce.  
 Nov. 2, 1892—W. P. Bruce.  
 Nov. 5, 1895—Thomas Harper.  
 July 6, 1896—J. W. Howard—Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of Thomas Harper.

Nov. 3, 1896—H. C. Merhoff.  
 Aug. 31, 1898—Robert Merten—Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of H. C. Merhoff.  
 Nov. 8, 1898—J. Zimmer.  
 Nov. 8, 1901—T. C. Brown.  
 Nov. 8, 1904—S. J. Williams.  
 Nov. 3, 1908—P. E. Murphy.

### COUNTY CLERKS.

May 16, 1872—W. H. Odell—Appointed special clerk by Governor James M. Harvey.

July 1, 1872—W. H. Odell.  
 Nov. 5, 1872—W. H. Odell.  
 Nov. 4, 1873—W. H. Odell.  
 Nov. 2, 1875—M. C. Campbell.  
 Nov. 6, 1877—Ira D. Brougher.  
 Nov. 4, 1879—Ira D. Brougher.  
 Nov. 8, 1881—Ira D. Brougher.  
 Nov. 6, 1883—E. L. Teed.  
 Nov. 3, 1885—E. L. Teed.  
 Nov. 8, 1887—D. R. Jones.  
 Nov. 8, 1889—D. R. Jones.  
 Nov. 3, 1891—R. P. Typer.  
 Nov. 7, 1893—R. P. Typer.  
 Nov. 5, 1895—M. B. Fitts.  
 Nov. 7, 1897—M. B. Fitts.  
 Nov. 7, 1899—F. M. Lutschg.  
 Nov. 8, 1904—H. D. Ashpole.  
 Nov. 3, 1906—H. D. Ashpole.  
 Nov. 3, 1908—C. F. Younkia.

Nov. 8, 1910.—C. F. Younkin.

#### TREASURERS.

July 1, 1872—E. L. Morphy.

Nov. 5, 1872—E. L. Morphy.

Nov. 4, 1873—A. W. Gray.

Nov. 2, 1875—A. W. Gray.

Nov. 6, 1877—John Alefs.

Nov. 8, 1881—Cal Weaver.

Nov. 6, 1883—L. F. Weaver.

Nov. 3, 1885—L. F. Weaver.

Nov. 8, 1887—L. M. Krause.

Nov. 8, 1889—L. M. Krause.

Nov. 3, 1891—D. Bosse.

Nov. 7, 1893—F. H. Miller.

Nov. 5, 1895—D. Bosse.

Nov. 7, 1897—D. Bosse.

Nov. 7, 1899—Theo. Griffith.

Nov. 8, 1901—R. C. Bailey—Appointed to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Theo. Griffith.

Nov. 4, 1902—E. E. Epperson—Short term.

Nov. 8, 1904—Frank Millard.

Nov. 3, 1906—Frank Millard.

Nov. 3, 1908—J. W. Soderstrom.

Nov. 8, 1910—J. W. Soderstrom.

#### SHERIFFS.

July 1, 1872—G. N. Moses.

Nov. 5, 1872—G. N. Moses.

Nov. 4, 1873—G. N. Moses.

Nov. 2, 1875—W. W. Winstead.

Nov. 6, 1877—W. W. Winstead.

Nov. 4, 1879—M. Gillmore.

Nov. 8, 1881—M. Gillmore.

Nov. 6, 1883—J. S. Dalziel.

Nov. 3, 1885—J. S. Dalziel.

Nov. 8, 1887—F. D. Wilson.

Nov. 8, 1889—F. D. Wilson.

Nov. 3, 1891—G. J. Spencer.

Nov. 7, 1893—G. J. Spencer.

Nov. 5, 1895—L. P. Aber.

Nov. 7, 1897—L. P. Aber.

Nov. 7, 1899—J. R. Johnson.

Nov. 4, 1902—J. R. Johnson.

Dec. 28, 1903—W. R. Bunting—Appointed to fill vacancy caused by death of J. R. Johnson.

Nov. 8, 1904—J. S. Dalziel.

Nov. 3, 1906—J. S. Dalziel.

Nov. 3, 1908—M. Dailey.

Nov. 8, 1910—M. Dailey.

#### REGISTERS OF DEEDS.

July 1, 1872—T. L. Morris.

Nov. 5, 1872—D. N. Heizer.

Nov. 4, 1873—C. E. Dodge.

Nov. 2, 1875—C. E. Dodge.

Nov. 6, 1877—C. E. Dodge.

Nov. 4, 1879—C. E. Dodge.

Nov. 8, 1881—C. E. Dodge.

Nov. 6, 1883—C. E. Dodge.

Nov. 3, 1885—C. E. Dodge.

Nov. 8, 1887—F. G. Strothman.

Nov. 3, 1891—F. G. Strothman.

Nov. 7, 1893—Henry Klein.

Nov. 5, 1895—Henry Klein.

Nov. 7, 1897—E. S. Brodie.

Nov. 7, 1899—E. S. Brodie.

Nov. 8, 1891—Flora A. Smith.

Nov. 8, 1904—Flora A. Smith.

Nov. 3, 1906—E. E. Epperson.

Nov. 3, 1908—E. E. Epperson.

Nov. 8, 1910—E. E. Epperson.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

July 1, 1872—J. B. Howard.

Nov. 5, 1872—G. W. Nimocks.

Nov. 3, 1874—G. W. Nimocks.

—1876—S. J. Day.

Nov. 5, 1878—S. J. Day.

Nov. 2, 1880—G. W. Nimocks.

Nov. 7, 1882—C. F. Diefenbacher.

Nov. 4, 1884—C. F. Diefenbacher.

Nov. 2, 1886—E. C. Cole.

Nov. 6, 1888—E. C. Cole.

Nov. 4, 1890—E. L. Hotchkiss.

Nov. 2, 1892—E. L. Hotchkiss.

Nov. 6, 1894—G. W. Nimocks.

Nov. 3, 1896—C. F. Diefenbacher.

Nov. 8, 1898—C. F. Diefenbacher.

Nov. 6, 1900—J. W. Clarke.

Nov. 8, 1904—P. C. Kopplin.

Nov. 3, 1906—J. W. Clarke.

Nov. 3, 1908—J. W. Clarke.

Nov. 8, 1910—R. C. Russell.

#### SURVEYORS.

July 1, 1872—John Farrow.

Nov. 5, 1872—J. B. Howard.

Nov. 4, 1873—J. B. Howard.

Nov. 2, 1875—C. Chamberlain.

Nov. 6, 1877—C. Chamberlain.

Nov. 4, 1879—C. Q. Newcombe.

Nov. 8, 1881—C. Q. Newcombe.

Nov. 6, 1883—Byron Majors.

Nov. 3, 1885—C. Q. Newcombe.

Nov. 8, 1887—B. Markey.

Nov. 8, 1889—B. Markey.

Nov. 3, 1891—S. A. Newcombe.

Nov. 7, 1893—S. A. Newcombe.

Nov. 5, 1895—S. A. Newcombe.

Nov. 7, 1897—S. A. Newcombe.

Nov. 7, 1899—S. A. Newcombe.

Nov. 8, 1904—S. A. Newcombe.

Nov. 3, 1906—S. A. Newcombe.

Nov. 8, 1910—S. A. Newcombe.

#### COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

July 1, 1872—A. C. Moses.

Nov. 5, 1872—J. R. McClellan.

Nov. 3, 1874—H. A. Brundidge.

..... 1876—Wm. Chalfant.

Nov. 5, 1878—Wm. Chalfant.

Nov. 2, 1880—L. Baldwin.

Nov. 7, 1882—C. C. Wolfe.

Nov. 4, 1884—L. Baldwin.

Nov. 2, 1886—C. C. Wolfe.

Nov. 6, 1888—W. H. Grant.

Nov. 4, 1890—A. McTaggart.

Nov. 2, 1892—F. G. McKinney.

Nov. 6, 1894—F. G. McKinney.

Nov. 3, 1896—M. L. Harrison.

Nov. 8, 1898—M. L. Harrison.

Nov. 6, 1900—Ben Hennessy.

Nov. 8, 1904—C. R. Aldrich—Appointed to fill vacancy caused by the resignation of Ben Hennessy.

Nov. 4, 1902—C. R. Aldrich.

Nov. 8, 1904—C. R. Aldrich.

Nov. 3, 1906—Ed Opie.  
 Nov. 3, 1908—Ed Opie.  
 Nov. 8, 1910—Jennie B. Momyer.

## CLERKS OF THE DISTRICT.

July 1, 1872—J. B. Howard.  
 Nov. 5, 1872—T. C. Polk.  
 Nov. 4, 1873—T. C. Polk.  
 Nov. . . . , 1876—C. Faussel.  
 Nov. 5, 1878—J. J. McClimans.  
 Nov. 4, 1879—A. C. Schermerhorn.  
 Nov. 2, 1880—A. C. Schermerhorn.  
 Nov. 7, 1882—A. C. Schermerhorn.  
 Nov. 2, 1886—Ira D. Brougher.  
 Nov. 6, 1888—W. R. Bunting.  
 Nov. 4, 1890—W. R. Bunting.  
 Nov. 2, 1892—R. A. Charles.  
 Nov. 6, 1894—R. A. Charles.  
 Nov. 3, 1896—F. G. Strothman.  
 Nov. 8, 1898—F. G. Strothman.  
 Nov. 6, 1900—W. B. Lucas.  
 Nov. 8, 1904—Sam Kellam.  
 Nov. 3, 1906—Sam Kellam.  
 Nov. 3, 1908—Sam Kellam.  
 Nov. 8, 1910—Sam Kellam.

## PROBATE JUDGES.

July 1, 1872—D. N. Heizer.  
 Nov. 5, 1872—T. S. Morton.  
 Nov. 3, 1874—E. L. Chapman.  
 Nov. . . , 1876—E. L. Chapman.  
 Nov. 6, 1877—E. L. Chapman.  
 Nov. 5, 1878—E. L. Chapman.  
 Nov. 2, 1880—E. L. Chapman—Resigned to become postmaster.

Oct. 1, 1881—James Clayton—Appointed by Governor.

Nov. 7, 1882—G. Toepke.  
 Nov. 2, 1886—B. F. Ogle.  
 Nov. 6, 1888—B. F. Ogle.  
 Nov. 4, 1890—T. H. Brewer.  
 Nov. 2, 1892—T. H. Brewer.  
 Nov. 6, 1894—H. McCorkle.  
 Nov. 3, 1896—L. C. Breeden.  
 Nov. 8, 1898—L. C. Breeden.  
 Nov. 6, 1900—W. P. Feder.  
 Nov. 8, 1904—W. Torrey.  
 Nov. 3, 1906—W. Torrey.  
 Nov. 3, 1908—H. A. Hall.  
 Nov. 8, 1910—H. A. Hall.

## REPRESENTATIVES.

Nov. 5, 1872—G. L. Brinkman.

Nov. 4, 1873—J. T. Cummings.  
 Nov. 3, 1874—G. L. Brinkman.  
 Nov. 2, 1875—C. J. Frey.  
 Nov. . . . , 1876—W. H. Keeney.  
 Nov. 6, 1877—G. L. Brinkman.  
 Nov. 4, 1879—D. N. Heizer.  
 Nov. 7, 1882—J. D. Bain.  
 Nov. 4, 1884—W. H. Campbell.  
 Nov. 2, 1886—H. J. Roetzel.  
 Nov. 6, 1888—W. H. Rice.  
 Nov. 4, 1890—M. W. Coburn.  
 Nov. 2, 1892—M. W. Coburn.  
 Nov. 6, 1894—E. C. Cole.  
 Nov. 5, 1895—B. F. Lorimer.  
 Nov. 3, 1896—Isom Wright.  
 Nov. 8, 1898—Isom Wright.  
 Nov. 6, 1900—M. W. Coburn.  
 Nov. 4, 1902—Henry Langfield.  
 Nov. 8, 1904—Bert Steckel.  
 Nov. 3, 1906—W. M. Chatten.  
 Nov. 3, 1908—W. P. Feder.  
 Nov. 8, 1910—W. P. Feder.

## CORONERS.

July 1, 1872—D. B. Baker.  
 Nov. 5, 1872—A. W. Strong.  
 Nov. 4, 1873—J. D. Bain.  
 Nov. 2, 1875—A. C. Moses.  
 Nov. 6, 1877—B. S. Lewis.  
 Nov. 4, 1879—Frank Lightfoot.  
 Nov. 8, 1881—J. D. Bain.  
 Nov. 6, 1883—S. J. Shaw.  
 Nov. 3, 1885—S. J. Shaw.  
 Nov. 8, 1887—S. J. Shaw.  
 Nov. 8, 1889—J. R. McHvaine.  
 Nov. 4, 1890—D. B. Shant.  
 Nov. 3, 1891—A. R. Lash.  
 Nov. 7, 1893—G. L. Koch.  
 Nov. 5, 1895—S. J. Shaw.  
 Nov. 7, 1897—S. J. Shaw.  
 Nov. 7, 1899—G. L. Koch.  
 Nov. 8, 1904—E. E. Morrison.  
 Nov. 3, 1908—F. L. McCauley.  
 Nov. 8, 1910—F. L. McCauley.

## COUNTY PRINTERS.

Nov. 6, 1900—D. T. Armstrong.  
 Nov. 4, 1902—D. T. Armstrong.  
 March 2, 1903—W. E. Stoke—Appointed.  
 Nov. 8, 1904—W. L. Townsley.  
 Nov. 3, 1906—W. L. Townsley.  
 Nov. 3, 1908—Roy Cornelius.  
 Nov. 8, 1910—Roy Cornelius.

## AN EARLY DAY INCIDENT

By Edwin Tyler

**W**AY back in the early days when George N. Moses was sheriff of the county, Great Bend at that time was the stopping place of notorious bad men. It was in 1873 that Harry Lovet then of Newton, came to Great Bend with an outfit consisting of the remnants of a dance hall which he had operated at Newton. The town company would not let him have a lot but he managed to get in debt to Colonel Tom Stone, refused to pay him and hiked for Dodge City. The sheriff

(George Moses) told the Colonel to get him a pony. Mounting the pony and with his old needle gun ready for action he went west on the trail like greased lightning. After reaching a point about where Henry Fruit's farm is located George overtook Lovet's outfit. Dismounting and leveling the needle gun at Lovet he ordered him to hold his hands up. Lovet raised his hands and asked: "What is wanted?" George said, "I want that money you owe Tom



Stone." "Then come and get it," said Lovet, and George got it.

On another occasion a man by the name of Crockett was in town and said he was looking for the marshal, that he had three of them to his credit and that he was a dangerous man to trifle with. George Moses was notified and being the sheriff he went out to look for Crockett. He met him on the street, walked

up to him and said: "How do you do?" Crockett stuck out his hand, and as he did so George grasped it and with a quick wrench threw the man to the ground, disarmed him and took him to jail. The next morning the fellow had sobered up and George gave him back his gun and told him the next time he came to town to keep sober and keep out of trouble.

## IRRIGATION CAMPAIGN BEGAN IN GREAT BEND

It is not a generally known fact that the big irrigation projects that have been successfully completed in the western part of the state are due in a large measure to the action of the first meeting of irrigatists in this part of the country which was held in Great Bend.

The irrigation campaign that swept over this western country was started by Lutellus Baldwin at Great Bend, Kansas, on July 17th, 1893, by calling a meeting of the citizens to consider the subject of irrigation. Previous to that time he had been carrying on a general agitation on the subject among the people, in this portion of Kansas, endeavoring to arouse interest in the subject. A dozen or more farmers, editors and other citizens attended this meeting, and some scoffed at the idea but an

interest was aroused. Mr. Baldwin then called a delegate convention to meet at Great Bend on the 7th of August following. This convention was called to order by Lutellus Baldwin, who read the call and organized the convention and handed it over to its officers, D. M. Frost of Garden City and F. B. Cowgill of Topeka, president and secretary respectively. This meeting was well attended, representatives being present from all parts of Kansas, and much enthusiasm was shown. This meeting was followed by meetings at Salina, Wichita, Omaha and by a large meeting at Los Angeles, California, at which meeting the Kansas delegation took a prominent part. At this meeting the name "National Irrigation Congress" was adopted at the suggestion of the Kansas delegation.

## CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF BARTON COUNTY

### Great Bend Church

As early as 1877, Rev. Father Swenberg used to come from Newton to visit the missions of Barton County, among which was Great Bend. A little later on, Rev. B. Wolf, a Benedictine, who was stationed at Windhorst, Ford County, took charge of the Great Bend mission and built a church. From 1882 to 1885, Father Epp attended from Ellinwood. Then came Father Dissolkamp, who is credited with moving the church to its present site and re-honored with the 1912 State Convention.

ovating its interior. From 1885 on, Great Bend has had as resident priests Rev. Fathers Walsh, Kelly, Brown, Podgorsek, Wiersma, Shutz, O'Sullivan and Hermann. The present pastor is Father Hull, who has been here two years. There are about 40 families in the parish and it is the expectation to erect soon a new and larger church. The Knights of Columbus have a flourishing council and were honored with the 1912 State Convention.

### Odin Church

The first church, St. Mary's, at Odin, was built in 1878 by Father Hundhausen, who visited once a month from Ellinwood. Rev. J. C. Schurz visited for a while. In 1881 Father Emmerich came to reside. He built the rectory and the first school, and started on the new church. Father Heiman was appointed in 1896 and under him the new \$20,000 stone

church was completed. Rev. B. Drath supplied for a year. Father Heiman returned and set to work to build the \$20,000 school, which was completed in 1908. The present pastor, Father Niederprum, has been in charge two years. The Sisters of St. Dominic manage the school, 80 children attending. There are over 100 families in this prosperous parish.

### Claflin Church

At the time the M. P. R. R. was run through this section, the Catholics around Claflin built a school house, where Father Emmerich held regular services, until Fathers Heiman and Drath built the present beautiful church in 1905. It cost about \$4,000. Rev. Reinschmidt was the first resident pastor, and a cosy home was purchased for him. Rev. Joyce, the noted

entertainer, enlivened the neighborhood for two years and then went to cheer the Soldiers in the U. S. army as a chaplain. Fathers Heiman and O'Sullivan visited for a while, till the appointment of Father McErlane, the present rector. The parish contains thirty-five families.

### Dubuque Church

A small church, named after St. Catherine, was erected in 1882 by Father Emmerich, who continued to visit regularly till 1896. Previous to his coming, during 1881, Rev. Lager held services in a school house. Rev. Dragun attended for a year from Wilson. After Father Emmerich, it was visited by Father Heiman, who began the construction of a new church. In 1898 Father Hermanns came to reside. He

continued the building of the new church, and put up a comfortable home. After nine years of devoted service, he resigned his place to Rev. J. Birrenbach. The old church happened to burn down. The new one was then soon finished. It had been a mighty task for the 75 families of the parish to raise the necessary \$5,000.

### Ellinwood

The old St. Joseph's church was started in 1871, when Father Swenborgh of Newton visited occasionally. In 1878 Rev. Emmer came to reside and was succeeded the same year by Father Hundhausen, who built the first priest's

rectory now serves for a convent. There are over a 100 substantial, German families in the parish and in the school, taught by Sisters of the Precious Blood, 60 pupils. There is a council of the Knights of Columbus, who have



Ellinwood Church

house. Rev. J. C. Schurz came in 1880 and was followed by Father Epp in 1882. He had the first school built. In 1896 came Father Emmerich, under whose able administration a new church, rectory, and school have replaced the old ones at an outlay of \$50,000. The old

erected a \$20,000 hall. In the towering spire of the church is a large town clock donated by the citizens, which automatically rings the bells at the appointed intervals of the day and night.

## St. Peter and Paul's Church Five Miles North of Ellinwood



The first church at St. Peter and Paul's was built in 1877, by Father Swenborgh, and was attended from Ellinwood. In 1882 Father Epp established a school and erected the handsome brick church. Rev. B. Disselkamp was the first resident pastor and put up the present rectory in 1898. After two years under

Rev. J. Mantz, came Father Weichmann, who enlarged the school and added a new sanctuary on the church. Rev. J. Bast is now caring for the 75 families of the parish and the school is flourishing under the management of the Sisters.

## Olmitz Church

As early as 1878, Olmitz was visited once a month by Rev. B. Wolf, a member of the Benedictine Order. In 1881 Father Emmerich began to come from Odin and in 1882 he built the first church. The next year Father Disselkamp came to reside. His successors were Rev. Dr. Dipolder, Hartmann and Sklenar. After the building through of the M. P. R. R. the church was moved to town. Father Huna,

who has been fourteen years at Olmitz, has been an active supervisor. He has enlarged and decorated the church, built a rectory and a convent. He is very interested in his school and entrusts it with the Sisters of the Precious Blood. The 100 families of his congregation are of German, Bohemian and Irish descent.

## Hoisington Catholic Church



Shortly after the building of the M. P. R. R. Rev. Emmerich used to hold services at different houses in Hoisington. Later, Father Kelly of Hutchinson attended and built the first church. It was afterwards supplied from Great Bend and has been visited by Fathers

Podgorsek, Wirma, Schutz, Hermanns and O'Sullivan. The last named built a beautiful rectory and took up his residence in it six years ago. He has added to his great achievements by the erection of a \$20,000 church, the grandest structure in the town.

## THE BLIZZARD OF 1871

EDWIN TYLER, one of the best known of Barton County's old timers, tells in his own way about the big blizzard that visited this section in 1871. "I had been here but a short time and had but forty-five dollars in money, a second-class team, a ten dollar wagon, a good wife and three children. I had failed as a buffalo hunter and as that occupation offered about the only means of getting money, the outlook for me was anything but bright. However, I had come to Kansas for my health, and by the way was only one here for that purpose. I looked forward to better things. A few days after my arrival in Great Bend, Lute Morris said to me, 'you had better take a lot,' and he also stated that the terms would be one dollar down. He also added that I could build a house within sixty days. I selected a lot. About this time Judge Morton came with a pocket full of money and began to buy teams for buffalo hunting I sold him mine for \$250.00. This money enabled me to build a little house and live until spring. Mr. Odell had a house on the Hess quarter 12 by 14 about a half mile east of the cemetery. The house had no floor and the walls were held together by bolts. He said to me that if I wanted to I could live in his house until

spring as he was going back east. I moved what few things I had and myself and family took up our residence there. The weather had been fine up to that time, similar to other mild winters since. November 17, 1871, dawned bright and clear. Rube Frey went by the house that morning without his coat and asked me to go with him to Dry creek for a load of wood, but Mrs. Tyler was afraid of the Indians so I stayed at home. About nine o'clock the wind began to blow and I have never been in such a hazy atmosphere as that which surrounded us that morning. It grew colder and the wind grew worse, increasing every minute, and very soon I saw Rube Frey and team coming down the trail at a two-forty clip. He stopped at the house and came in to get warm. We began to crack jokes. He and I had served three years in the same regiment in the war and things had to look mighty blue if we could not joke a little. He soon departed for his house. Shortly after noon the sleet, snow, mist and hail struck us with great force. By three o'clock it became so dark that it was impossible to distinguish objects ten feet away. Myself and family huddled inside the house and looked at each other, being in no mood for conversation. We could not keep warm and



every minute expected the shanty to blow over, but the house had been securely fastened to posts sunk deep into the ground and had it not been for this fact I guess we would have been victims of the storm. Luckily my wife had brought along two feather beds and I had included in my pack a couple of tarpaulins such as are used in the army. With these we made a bed on the floor of the building and with all our clothes on prepared to retire. We were comfortable but frightened as the wind howled around the house and the storm

grew in volume and violence. We ate very little that day and the next, spending most of the time in bed where we could keep warm. It grew mighty cold by the afternoon of the 18th, when the storm began to abate somewhat. On the morning of the 19th the sun rose bright and clear and the storm was over, but it was exceedingly cold. That storm is remembered by all who were here at that time as one of the worst in the history of this part of the state.

## BUFFALO HUNTING BY TENDERFEET

**E**DWIN TYLER tells about his experience in hunting the Monarchs of the Plains, during the early days of Barton County; "When I came to this part of the country buffaloes and antelope roamed the prairies of Western Kansas in countless numbers. While coming through the central part of the state, nearly everybody we met this side of Emporia told us that tomorrow we would find buffaloes in plentiful numbers. At Atlanta in Rice County we were told that we would find them the next day on the Arkansas river. We were quite anxious to find them as we were hungry for some fresh meat. Our arms consisted of two double-barrelled shot-guns, one of which had two hammers and the other but one. We had traded a dog for the one with a single hammer. We traveled late that night and camped in the sand hills. The next morning we got an early start. We soon encountered large numbers of antelope but we paid no attention to them as it was buffaloes we were after. Soon after we had reached the Arkansas Valley we saw three old bulls crossing the trail a short distance ahead of us. Bill Hartshorn and I soon had our fastest horses unharnessed. We mounted them and with the reins in one hand and our guns in the other we charged on the game. As soon as we got within shooting distance we dismounted and prepared to fire. By this time the game was too far away for our arms. We made three charges on the animals and finally gave up in disgust and decided to postpone our feast of buffalo meat. A few days after our arrival at a point where Great Bend now stands, D. N. Heizer invited me to go with him and a party up Dry Creek where he was going to locate the party on a homestead. When we arrived where Tom Brandt lived, Heizer told me I could take my gun and go up the creek where I would find plenty of game. He told me to keep near the brush on the creek, and I could get near enough to the game to make my shots effective. He told me to shoot a buffalo just behind the fore leg to get the best results. I obeyed all his orders but saw no game until I arrived at a point that is now a part of Chas. Button's home place. Here I saw three buffalo bulls standing not twenty feet away, their heads partly hidden by the brush. I could

make no attempt to raise my gun, nothing going up except my hair and heart. I ducked down low and sneaked back to where I could climb a tree on an instant's notice. My nerve finally returned and I crept up close to the animals, aimed at the point designated by Mr. Heizer and pulled the trigger. Then, I ran for the tree I had selected to climb. When I was up about ten feet from the earth I looked back expecting to find a dead buffalo. However I finally located all three of them some mile and a half away. They were in behind some plum bushes. Made another stealthy advance but they were on the lookout and long before I got within shooting distance they ran towards the river as fast as they could go and I never saw them again.

"My next experience was with a genuine old buffalo hunter, John W. Tilton. One day he proposed to me that we go to the Five Mile Timber to get a load of wood. He took a 22 calibre revolver and I took an ax. We had no thought of finding any buffalo, but as my reputation had suffered in the hunting line I was rather in hopes that something would happen so that I could distinguish myself. As we were driving around a sand hill where Clay and Ed Moses have their cattle sheds we spied a buffalo cow. John stopped the team and sneaked up behind the hill until he was within twenty feet of the animals. He then began firing the pistol. The cow dropped and we found on examination that she had been shot through the lungs and shoulders. The animal had no more than touched the ground when John was on top of her and was holding her down by the horns, while he called to me to bring the ax. I had lost the ax in the excitement and was looking for a tree. I found one but after John had coaxed and pleaded with me for some time, I took the ax to him, and then returned to my tree. It took John but a short time to kill and skin the buffalo. I then remarked to him that we had done very well. And you should have seen the look on his face when I said 'We.' I often wanted to go with the hunters after that but none of them seemed to want my company.

"A short time after 'we' had killed that buffalo cow, Mr. and Mrs. Hartshorn and my wife and I started out to visit the neighbors in our



vicinity. I took my gun and two Shepherd dogs with us. I had forgotten that my wife had trained those dogs so that they would drive cattle, sheep, etc., in any direction that might be indicated by a wave of the hand. We had driven but a short way when we saw a buffalo lying in the grass. I crawled up to within about a hundred yards of it when all of a sudden my wife motioned to the dogs, and they ran by me like shot out of a gun. They

ran around the buffalo and it started for me with the dogs in pursuit. I beat it back to the wagon slightly in the lead. After running around the wagon twice I got together enough courage to turn and shoot at the animal. I sent about a dozen buck shot into it and at last I could say I had killed a buffalo. It has always been a wonder to me that I did not shoot the dogs instead of the buffalo.

## AN INDIAN BATTLE

By A. J. Hoisington

ONE of the best known old timers tells of an Indian battle that was fought by the Pawnees and Arapahoes on ground that is now included within the borders of Barton County, long before it was organized. The story as told by Mr. Hoisington is as follows:

"One of the numerous battles between bands of Plains tribes, within the memory of and known to white men occurring within the limits of Barton County was one fought in July, 1849, on sections eleven, one and two, in northeast Buffalo township and on sections thirty-four, thirty-five and thirty-six in southeast Eureka township, between a band of Arapahoes and Pawnees.

"As related by a writer of the old Santa Fe Trail the story of the battle as told to him by the Arapahoes was substantially as follows:

"The Arapahoes had traveled down the Walnut from the far west on a hunting expedition and were in camp on the south or west side of the creek, opposite Shaw's house on section eleven over night. The next morning a part of the bucks were left to guard the squaws and papposes, and the remainder started in a northeasterly direction for the Cheyenne Bottoms. Gaining the highlands, a band of Pawnees suddenly came into view. The Arapahoes dispatched a messenger to their camp for re-enforcements and to have the camp prepared for attack. In the meantime the Pawnees dashed forward while the Arapahoes made for the high point on section twelve. The former evidently supposed the latter's force was all in sight and hastened onward. In the meantime the Arapahoes re-enforced were rapidly coming into view from the creek timber. The Pawnees apparently hoped to attack their enemy and route those who had retreated behind the hill before the others could arrive. The Pawnees divided their band and deployed around the hill to attack the enemy from both east and west. The first onset was terrific. Several warriors on both sides were killed or disabled. The re-enforcing party soon arrived and the Pawnees retreated to the north side of the hill where

they hoped to make a stand and allow the Arapahoes to attack them in turn as they had done the former a few minutes before. But the Pawnees were so closely pursued that with great difficulty they placed themselves in a position for the attack. Each band maneuvered for position, but the Pawnees were outclassed and sorely pushed. Thinking they had the fleetest ponies they attempted—knowing where their enemies' camp was located—to turn their western flank and make a dash for the camp. In this way they were partly successful but were crowded so far north and west they were not able to make a bee line for the camp. Besides the Arapahoes knowing their design crowded towards their own camp attacking all the while. The Pawnees were getting very much the worst of the deal and were forced to scatter and make for the timber in the upper bend of the creek. So hard pushed were they that no two of them reached the timber at the same time. The ones nearest the camp were a mile or more west. At a safe distance from the timber the pursuing Arapahoes made for their camp which of course by this time was in motion down the creek on the south side. Fearing a renewal of the attack, and probably with re-enforcements besides the Arapahoes moved southward to the Arkansas river where they camped unmolested for several days. Evidently the Pawnees had no other force of warriors in reach or the desire for revenge would have caused another attack. The Arapahoes claimed afterwards that they took the scalps of the Pawnees and that the Pawnees got 'heap little scalp.' The Arapahoes claimed their own band had altogether about 100 warriors besides squaws and papposes and the Pawnees had about sixty. Many other engagements of this kind some of them having hundreds engaged occurred in what is now Barton County. Scarcely an acre of ground in the county but that has at some time been the scene of battle between warring tribes of Indians.

## WHEN WATER WAS HARD TO GET

**W** W. SOWARDS tells of early days in Union township when water was a most valuable possession. Mr. Sowards in telling the story said:

"I located a soldier claim in what is now Union township in September, 1877. There were but four settlers there at that time. There were tree claims taken in most of the sections and in July, 1878 the township was organized out of territory taken from Homestead township. There were fifty-eight voters at that time, a large majority of whom were ex-soldiers. This fact was the cause of name 'Union' being selected. All the settlers except three or four were natives of America and came from Iowa and Illinois. The township is located on what is known as the Smoky River Divide. The lack of water in this was its greatest drawback. Shallow wells could not be gotten only in the creek beds, at other places one would have to go several hundred

feet into the ground and as a result of this it was necessary to haul water in wagons.

"On one occasion Fred Prindle had four barrels of water slide out of his wagon when going up a small hill and the thermometer was twenty below zero thus making the conditions anything but favorable for prayer. Another time when the value of water was brought forcibly to the notice of another settler, a man by the name of Williams, when he spilled three barrels of water when his wagon upset, after bringing the liquid five miles with oxen. Another time Jay Verbeek fell into a well while hauling water for cattle. The mercury stood at zero when this occurred. Very few of the old settlers who suffered these hardships are now living in the township, most of them having gone to places where there is more water. Those were great days in the history of Barton County."

## HENRY FRUIT'S EXPERIENCE

**H**ENRY FRUIT, an old timer of this section of the state recalls his arrival here and tells of a trip to Dodge City in the early days. Mr. Fruit says:

"I landed in Great Bend on the 12th day of March, 1872, and found here some old friends from my native state, Illinois. I was well pleased with the appearance of the country, and on the 13th, my brother-in-law, W. W. Hartshorn and I started out to locate a claim. We had no trouble in finding a good location, and after I had made the necessary improvements to hold it, I began to look for a job and let it be known that if anybody wanted a carpenter I was their huckleberry. I did not wait long for there was one Harry Lovett, then living in Zarah, about four miles east of Great Bend, who wanted a frame work put inside his big wall tent, so he was sent to me. To tell the truth I did not fancy the job a great deal. I had heard of Mr. Lovett and did not fancy his style, for a short time before he had pumped a cowboy full of lead and then finished him by beating his brains out with a revolver. Knowing all of this I began to make excuses, but he would not hear them: "D—n it," he said, "I want the work done," he said it as though he meant it too. Remembering the fate of the cowboy I concluded to go. I got through with the desperado in two days and got seven fifty for my work, and got back to Great Bend O. K. By the middle of May the cattle trade began to blossom, buildings began to loom up, houses, stores, barns, saloons, and dance halls were to be seen at frequent intervals and carpenters were in good demand, so I had plenty of work at my trade until about the middle of August. The word soon went out that Great Bend was a haven for carpenters

and by the first of August there were more carpenters here than there are fiddlers in Helena or anywhere else. There being more carpenters than jobs I concluded to try my hand at buffalo hunting. Mr. Frost, W. H. Quincy, or "Tough" as he is better known and myself, started for the buffalo range about twenty miles south of Dodge City, where we heard there were thousands of buffaloes. We had no adventure to speak of until the second day, out, when we stopped to feed and get our dinners. Just after dinner there was a big flock of buffalo birds lit in some weeds along the trail, and Frost said to Quincy, "if you will let me have your shotgun I'll bet you a quarter I can kill fifty of them birds at one shot." The bet was made. Frost fired into the bunch and such a slaughter I never saw. He picked up and counted 136 and was not through when we happened to look southward and there we saw something that caused us to pause and our hair to stand up. It was about 150 men on horseback coming straight for our camp. We at once jumped to the conclusion that it was a bunch of hostile Indians for we heard they were on the warpath. The party was too far off for us to tell exactly what they were but we imagined we could see the paint on their faces and the feathers on their heads, so what were we to do? We were too far from Fort Dodge to think of making there, they would overtake us before we had covered half the distance, so we concluded to drive about a half mile north of a hill covered with loose stone and build a fort, and then sell our lives as dearly as possible. We had two needle guns. By this time the front of the line had reached the river and the horses were drinking leisurely. By this time we were ready to

start and the horsemen were at the river. We looked again, and oh; joy, our hearts gave a great bound and our hair began to settle down for we saw coming out from the sand hills a covered wagon drawn by four mules, and just behind it two men on horses, one of them carrying an American flag. We knew at once no band of Indians would be carrying Old Glory nor would they have a covered wagon. I never was so glad in my life to see the American flag, for I knew no harm could come to us from that source. Now to explain why Uncle Sam's cavalry was out. It was not for the purpose of scaring the life out of three hunters."

"Two or three nights before a gang of horse thieves mostly white men, stampeded about fifty horses and mules, belonging to a railroad contractor, then working about five miles west of Dodge City. The commander at Fort Dodge had sent out two companies of cavalry after the thieves. They caught them in the brakes of Medicine Lodge river, re-captured the stock and killed some of the bandits. When we saw them they were on their way back with the stolen stock. We started on our journey mighty glad that we had escaped alive, having forgotten about the bet Frost won. We got to the old government crossing about one mile west of Dodge City, and found old Bob Robinson, a buffalo hunter of great fame. We found a great deal of water in the river at this point. Robinson and a man from Ellsworth doubled their teams and got across

the river. We tried it alone and got across O. K. We found the buffalo by the thousands at the heads of Mulberry and Indian creeks. We succeeded in killing about 200 in ten days, after which we started on the return trip. When we got to the river it was much lower but we had to make several trips in order to get our loads across. At Dodge we traded our green hides for dry ones and camped for the night about a mile east of the city. About three o'clock in the morning we were awakened by somebody galloping across the prairie, the moon was about two hours high and we could see quite plainly. Frost raised to see what it was. I asked him "what do you see?" He replied, "two men on horseback." They stopped near our horses and one of them dismounted, and I heard Frost say, "Halt, hold on there, what do you want?" and in the same breath he whispered, "Bob, they have your horses." Bob said, "shoot the son-of-a-gun," and the crack of Frost's rifle broke the stillness of the midnight air. This was followed by several shots in quick succession. By this time the would-be horse thieves began to think it was getting mighty hot, for they mounted their ponies, and ran for their lives. They had cut the rope tied to Bob's horses, and were making off with them when we called a halt. They made a water haul that time. We got to Great Bend without any more adventures and sold our hides for \$1.15 each and that was the end of my first buffalo hunt, but it was not the last one."

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## THE GARDEN SPOT OF THE WORLD

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By John F. Lewis

**B**ARTON COUNTY, KANSAS, is a moderate undulating landscape affording more high class tillable land in proportion to its acreage than any county in the state, except possibly two or three counties.

The slight swells and valleys afford excellent natural drainage, and a view over the country that is delightful. Commencing in the north part of the county the entire distance east and west, and north and south is typical wheat land, out of the vast plains of buffalo grass once traversed by buffalo, but now dotted with beautiful groves of trees, elegant farm houses and barns, with good natural roads for vehicles and the honk honk of the farmers' automobile may be heard any hour of the day. The soil is a dark chocolate loam, enriched by the silts deposited by thousands of years of water overflow in the glacial period and from the Rocky Mountains. As we go south we encounter the breaks leading into the valleys of Blood and Deception creeks, where appears the croppings of lime and sand-stone in sufficient quantities to afford the people with build-

ing material, which are in evidence in the many stone houses, barns and corrals.

The earth has not been penetrated to sufficient depth or of such frequency to venture upon much of a geological showing of its formation, however one well sunk within four miles of Great Bend discovered a bed of merchantable rock salt 163 feet in thickness.

The lime stone disappears south of Blood creek, some five miles north of the center of the county, and now comes the various hues of sand-stone that exists in sufficient quantity to supply the demand, which continues until the Walnut creek is reached running from east to west, a little south of the center of the county, where is found a rich deep black soil equal to the richest prairie soil of Illinois or Iowa, where alfalfa is successfully grown without irrigation, and where sheet water abounds at a depth from the surface of the ground that no drouth or heat diminishes the supply for man or beast, nor has the time ever been in this county that

wells went dry or water had to be hauled for stock.

The Walnut creek valley extends its width and mingles its matchless soil with the Arkansas Valley, where in rich profusion may be seen the alfalfa, corn and wheat fields. The endless fields of grain are so blended that the road ways can only be marked by the fringes of trees that embellish the country with flamboyant denial that this could ever have been the great American desert.

Here in this vast scope of country between the Walnut creek and the Arkansas river is a soil that has also received the rich deposit of the silts that came from the west in the mighty currents that swept down the Arkansas river, when everything south of the Walnut creek was a vast body of water which grudgingly yielded to man its rich producing qualities, and Barton county encompasses the richest spot in the state.

The occasional discovery of limbs and logs of wood at depths from 15 to 60 feet are incontrovertible evidences that this land was accumulated drifts and fills at great depth from the floods from the west, which gives assurance of a long lived soil in the producing qualities, continuing to rise to the surface, replenishing the top formation much more rapidly than it can be consumed in cropping the land.

We now pass to the south side of the Arkansas river where we find the once much doubted sandy land, once almost destitute of vegetation, but now rivals the fields of all of the states of the Union. In the mighty floods once covering this country for thousands of years, the slacked lime-stone of the Rocky Mountains with its rich conglomerate of decomposed vegetable and animal matter in a formation variously estimated from 25 to 60 feet deep. This rich sub-stratum is rapidly coming to the surface with a tenacity that will soon resist the blowing of soils by the winds, that was once much feared.

The occasional bare patches of sand that once glared the eye with a suggestion of desert lands, have now changed into a dark rich productive soil, and with the tardy efforts being made by the farmers to grow fruits come results that give promise in the near future of a great fruit country. The popular acknowledgment that the south side of the river is the great corn belt of Kansas brooks no contradiction, and the largest yield of wheat per acre ever recorded in the state came from these lands. The banner vegetable production of this country is on the south side, all admit, and had this marvelous country been exploited with anything like the energy California has, it would have been as notable for its wheat, corn, alfalfa, melons, vegetables and fruits as any country in the world.

There has been no little discussion over the amount of moisture we receive in this country and while it must be admitted that previous to 1897 we quite often suffered for want of rain, and the cause is now known to

have been the unobstructed heated winds by the parched uncultivated plains of Texas and Oklahoma which are now being plowed up and planted to crops and whether successful to the owners of said fields or not, they are the depository of rains which once ran away like water from the roof of a house, whereas now they throw off vapor that create clouds that are blown to us by the never varying south winds, that give us an assurance of rainfall in normal years that no other state can boast, and when in our feeble efforts to justly, truthfully and explicitly exploit the beauties, excellencies and advantages of Barton County, Kansas, our mind runs to those matchless words of Senator Ingalls, who must have had in his mind Barton County, when he said, "Kansas is the nucleus of our political system," etc.

"Kansas is the nucleus of our political system, round which forces assemble, to which its energies converge, and from which its energies radiate to the remotest circumference. Kansas is the focus of freedom, where the rays of heat and light concentrated into a flame that melted the manacles of the slave and cauterized the heresies of state sovereignty and disunion. Kansas is the core and kernel of the country, containing the germs of its growth and the quickening ideas essential to its perpetuity. The history of Kansas is written in capitals. It is punctuated with exclamation points. Its verbs are imperative. Its adjectives are superlative. The commonplace and prosaic are not defined in its lexicon. Its statistics can be stated only in the language of hyperbole. The aspiration of Kansas is to reach the unattainable; its dream is the realization of the impossible. Alexander wept because there were no more worlds to conquer. Kansas, having vanquished all competitors, smiles complacently as she surpasses from year to year her own triumphs in growth and glory. Other states could be spared with irreparable bereavement, but Kansas is indispensable to the joy, the inspiration and the improvement of the world. It seems incredible that there was a time when Kansas did not exist; when its name was not written on the map of the United States; when the Kansas cyclone, the Kansas grass-hopper, the Kansas boom and the Kansas Utopia were unknown. I was a student in the junior class at William College when President Pierce, forgotten but for that signature, approved the act establishing the Territory of Kansas, May 30, 1854. I remember the inconceivable agitation that preceded, accompanied and followed this event. It was an epoch. Destiny closed one volume of our annals and, opening another, traced with shadowy finger upon its pages a million epitaphs, ending with Appomattox. Kansas was the prologue to a tragedy whose epilogue has not yet been pronounced; the prelude to a fugue of battle whose reverberations have not yet died away. Floating one summer night upon a



moonlit sea, I heard far over the still waters a high, clear voice singing:

"To the West! To the West; To the land of the free,

Where the mighty Missouri rolls down to the sea;

Where a man is a man if he's willing to toil,  
And the humblest may gather the fruits of the soil."

The grassy quadrangle geographers call Kansas. Her undulating fields are the floors of ancient seas. These limestones ledges underlying the prairies and cropping from the foreheads of the hills are the cemeteries of the marine insect life of the primeval world. The inexhaustible humus is the mold of the decaying herbage of unnumbered centuries. It is only upon calcareous plains, in tem-

perate latitudes, that agriculture is supreme, and the strong structure and the rich nourishment imparted essential to bulk, endurance, and speed in animals; to grace, beauty and passion in women; and in man to stature, courage, health and longevity."

And to properly finish the picture with the music of rhyme in quoting Walt Mason's epigrammatic ode,

"Kansas: Where we've turn the shackles

From the farmers' leg;

Kansas: Where the hen that cackles

Always lays an egg;

Where the cows are fairly achin',

To go on with record breakin',

And the hogs are raising bacon

By the keg."

## HIS FIRST FEE AND OTHER REMINISCENCES

By James W. Clark

THE writer hereof located in Great Bend November 6, 1884. During that month Judge Strang held his last term of court in this county, the same being the last court here as a part of the 16th judicial district. The sixteenth judicial district when it was created in 1881 consisted of the counties of Barton, Stafford, Pratt, Barber, Comanche, Edwards, Pawnee, Rush, Ness, Hodgeman, Ford, Clark, Meade, Foote, Buffalo, Lane, Scott, Sequoyah, Arapahoe, Seward, Stevens, Grant, Kearney, Wichita, Greeley, Hamilton and Stanton.

In February, 1885, the 20th judicial district was created, and consisted of the counties of Barton, Rice, Stafford and Pratt. Hon. George W. Nimocks of the local bar was appointed as judge of this new district until the following election when Judge Clark was elected. The members of the Barton county bar at this time consisted of S. J. Day, W. H. Dodge, Joshua Clayton, James Clayton, Theo. C. Cole, E. C. Cole, Samuel Maher, William Osmond, C. E. Dittenbacher, Judge D. A. Banta, L. R. Nimocks, B. F. Ogle and the writer. The court docket was large, and most every little case was fought out to the finish with but few compromises or friendly settlements. The policy of the bar seems to have changed in this regard during more recent years. Now the attorneys and clients look upon lawsuits more as matters of business and seek just and fair settlements rather than unnecessary and expensive trials tinged with spite and vengeance.

The first case the writer tried after locating here was rather comical. The lot where the Odd Fellows' Hall now stands was owned by Mrs. I. T. Flint. Her husband had placed this property with A. J. Buckland, a real estate agent, for sale, and D. R. Jones who

tried to buy the property from Buckland and failing concluded he would go to Eureka township where the Flints lived and make the deal with them, and Buckland learning of this started out, procured a conveyance and he and Jones had a horse race to see who could reach the Flints first. Jones won the race and bought the property, and then Buckland brought suit before C. J. McIntosh, a justice of the peace in South Bend township, for his commission for the sale of this property. Your writer represented Mr. Flint, who was very pugnacious, and James Clayton represented Mr. Buckland, who was rather schrewd and cunning in his ways, and doubtless had a purpose in the selection of his court to try the case. A jury was demanded, the case hotly contested, and even the parties themselves insisted on making arguments to the jury. Flint spoke first with much feeling, noise and abuse, and on finishing left his memorandum book on the little school house table. Then Mr. Buckland commenced his argument by referring to Flint as a sneak thief, whereupon Flint rose to his feet and made a break towards Buckland for revenge and everyone kept out of his way as he rushed up the aisle towards Buckland, but he simply picked up his memorandum book, walked back and took his seat amidst an uproar of laughter. No one was hurt. Flint won his case on the ground that his wife, the holder of the title, had not authorized the placing of the property for sale. The writer received for his services a bright new ten dollar bill his first fee in Kansas.

The oldest contractor in the county in point of service is still engaged in the business and apparently as young as ever. He is Frank Kramer of this city. He came here from Pennsyl-



nia in the early '70s and was noted for years as one of the finest band men and ball players in the state. And Frank says that it has always been a wonder to him how he ever managed to hold on to his trade, support a family and follow these two professions when either one is enough of a detriment to a man in a small community where neither pays salary. Chas. Morrison is the next oldest contractor in the city.

The first bank in Barton County was established in 1873 by Samuel Maher and others. It ran for a year then got into difficulties over a check for \$17,000 in which cattle buyers and

the Santa Fe were involved and went out of business. The J. V. Brinkman Company Bank organized in 1874, which is now one of the big banks of the state, was really a continuation of this bank.

The Barton County court house was built by the Santa Fe railroad. The company owned most of the taxable land in the county in the year 1872 and the few citizens of the county managed to get a special election call through and had the court house built, the taxes paid by the Santa Fe paying the most of the expense.

## THE KILLING OF ARCHIE B. CLEMENTS

By G. N. Moses

THE following description of Archie B. Clements' death in Missouri after a strenuous career is told by George N. Moses who was active in the early day life of that part of the country before he came to Barton County. It is printed as an interesting event in the life of the first sheriff of Barton County.

At the close of the Civil War, the country was in a very unsettled condition and more especially so in the border states. There were roving bands of men, composed of the worst elements of both armies, who did not accept the condition of peace or abide by the civil law but took the law in their own hands and travelled the country, burning, murdering and committing all kinds of depredations. Such was the condition of affairs in LaFayette County, Mo. A band of men, headed by Archie B. Clements, who was a lieutenant under Quantrell at the time of the Lawrence massacre, would ride into Lexington shooting, killing and robbing banks in broad day light. Reports of these outrages coming to the ears of Gov. Tom Fletcher, he sent Bacon Montgomery of Sedalia, Mo., and ordered him to raise a company of men and go to Lexington and quiet the troubles.

Montgomery returned to Sedalia and raised a company of thirty-two, consisting of such men as J. M. and George Turley, Dave Thornton, Tom Tibbs, Monte Cantrell and others of like character. They were men who had carried their lives in their hands all through the war; they were dead shots and could be relied upon to face any danger. They were as daring a lot of men, taken as a whole, as were ever banded together. We left Sedalia for Lexington but the date of our leaving I cannot recollect. It was, however, in the winter of 1866. On the way we were notified by friends, that Clements and his band would meet us at the LaFayette County line and that we were never to be permitted to cross the line. Sure enough

when we came to the line there was a squad of men but at sight of us they scattered into the brush and we went into Lexington without any trouble, remaining there several days without anything of note happening. One day, a company of nearly 500 men, headed by Dave Poole came into town and it was reported that they came for the purpose of taking the oath, registering or something of that kind. We didn't just like the looks of things so we gathered our squad in the court house, remaining there until they left town. Shortly after they left, Montgomery came to Turley, Tibbs and myself and said that Clements, and Hickland had come back and were at the hotel which was run by one of the Hicklands. He further stated that there was a reward offered by both Kansas and Missouri for Clements and he wanted us to go and get him. We started at once and on the way, discussed the situation, finally determining that we would take them if possible, without shooting. Our plan was to get them into conversation and then ask them to take a drink and while drinking get the drop on them and cause them to surrender. Meantime, Montgomery, fearing there might be more of them than we could handle, sent Joe Wood with two or three men, to our assistance.

Just as we were in the act of taking a drink at the bar, Wood came to the door and commenced hollering, "Surrender." Immediately, Clements and Hickland sprang back, Hickland jumping over a billiard table. As he jumped, I shot him in the leg. Clements ran through a side door into the office and I ran into the opening leading into the office. Just as I slipped into the door Clements turned and fired at me the ball going through my clothes but not drawing blood. I fired at him hitting him in the right breast, crippling him badly which accounts for his poor shooting after that for he emptied eleven six shooters at us and never

hit a man and he died with the twelfth gun in his hand trying to cock it.

When I shot him he fell but before I could reach him he sprang to his feet and started running towards the Virginia Hotel Livery Barn, in front of which he had his horse tied. I was so busy taking care of myself up to this time that I did not realize what Turley and Tibbs were doing, but when I came to myself I found that all three of us were running after Clements. Clements reached his horse when we were within ten or fifteen feet of him and we continued shooting at him as fast as we could but in spite of it all, he mounted and swung his horse around and started towards Market Street. As his horse came around he ran into the lead horse of a four horse team that was coming up the street and we followed still shooting at him and shot and killed the lead horse of the team. Clements' horse was hit several times but kept going, reaching Market street and then up that street as far as Dr. Cooley's residence; there his horse gave out and stopped. Turley and I were the first to reach him and took him off his horse and he was then vainly trying to cock his last six shooter but had not the strength left to do so. We laid him on the ground and he stretched out, gave a few convulsions and the last words he spoke were, "Oh, he—ll," and he was dead.

We took the body to the court house where an examination disclosed that Clements had been hit thirty-three or thirty-four times, of which number, twenty odd wounds were in the body. We then placed his body against one of the columns of the court house and had it photographed.

I had one of these pictures but have been unable to locate it. When we brought Clements' body to the court house, I told Montgomery that I thought Hickland was wounded at the hotel. Several of us went back there and found a trail of blood from the billiard table, through the office and up the stairs where it stopped. Montgomery then found the landlord and demanded Hickland, telling him that if he did not deliver him up we would set fire to the house and smoke Hickland out.

There was certainly a scene of commotion then. The landlord, his wife and two grown daughters, crying, wringing their hands and swearing that Hickland had left the hotel. Montgomery would not believe them and sent John Jackson to a drug store for some turpentine which he soon brought and Bake emptied the can on the floor and was just about to touch a match to the turpentine when the mayor and Dr. Cooley who were old friends of his, came in and persuaded him not to burn the house.

That afternoon we received word from a farmer, that the Poole band had returned to old man Hickland's place, two miles from town, and were coming in to kill every one of us. We went through the city, taking all the arms and ammunition we could find and draft-

ing a lot of negroes and then establishing headquarters at McDowell College. From there we sent out pickets and spies to watch their movements. I went through fields and along hedge rows to their camp until I was close enough to hear what they were saying. Some of them wanted to come in and some hung back. They lacked a leader. They wanted Poole to lead them in but this he refused to do and that settled it. They never came after us while we were at the College. I might here add, that we never found Hickland.

There was a newspaper published on the other side of the river by a man named Williams and he was giving us a terrible scoring as robbers and murderers, so Turley took a few of us with him and we crossed the river, captured the printer, broke the presses and scattered the type up and down the street. We brought Williams back with us and for several days kept him prisoner under a stairway in a dark room and then let him go. This escape, however, proved quite an expensive joke for us for we were afterwards compelled to pay for the property destroyed.

Soon after this we moved back to the court house. Some of the good citizens who did not like us nor the idea of our staying there any longer, sent all kinds of terrible reports about us to President Grant and these reports were so bad, describing us as robbers and murderers, that Grant, without taking second thought ordered two companies of infantry from Fort Leavenworth to Lexington by forced march. The day these U. S. troops arrived there was a young lieutenant sent ahead to procure quarters. This lieutenant had evidently just entered the army and gave every evidence of having bought his commission for he lacked any of the traits of a true soldier or gentleman. He came to the court house dressed in a new uniform with bright shining buckles and buttons and his sword dangling by his side and you could tell from his looks that he considered himself a great soldier and of vast importance. I happened to be standing in the doorway and he addressed himself to me, asking "What men are these here?" I remarked that they were Gen. Montgomery and his men. "Gen. Montgomery," he replied with a sneer. "Where is this man Montgomery?" I felt the blood coursing a little swifter through my veins but held my peace knowing that Bake could answer him much better than I could, and followed him in saying to him that the General was back there by the stove, playing seven-up with some of his men. The lieutenant marched in very pompously and said, "Where is this man Montgomery?" Bake looked up and said, "That's my name, sir." The lieutenant, said, "Capt. Williams is on his way here, sir, with U. S. troops and we want these rooms for our quarters." Again Bake looked up and said, "How many troops has Capt. Williams?" "Two companies of infantry, sir." "Well," said Bake, "You go back and tell Capt. Williams that I have thirty Missou-

rians here and I will contest with him, God damn you sir, for these quarters," and Bake went on with his game paying no further attention to the lieutenant who stood there a few minutes then turned and walked out like a whipped cur.

Meantime, George Turley had got hold of an old musket and constituted himself a guard and halted the lieutenant when he got to the door. The lieutenant drew his sword and ordered George to get out of the way but George took after him and ran him clear past the court house square, pricking him with the bayonet at every jump. When the U. S. troops arrived they camped in the court house yard. Bake went and telegraphed Governor Fletcher who immediately wired the president that he had state troops at Lexington, that he had made no requisition for U. S. troops and asked that they be ordered back. The troops soon left for Fort Leavenworth.

It did not suit the old moss backs that we were left in control of the situation so they swore to charges against us of wilful and malicious murder. (By the way, in the shooting fracas with Clements, there were one or two citizens accidentally killed.) So we were indicted for murdering Clements and these citizens. A United States marshal named Poole, a cousin of Dave Poole, was sent to arrest us. He came to Lexington, sent for us to come to the hotel and told us he had a warrant for our arrest.

Montgomery told him to produce his warrants and if they were all right we would go with him but this he refused to do and for several days we parleyed back and forth. Montgomery demanding to see the warrants and Poole declining to show them, claiming it was not necessary. Finally he sent for us and said he would show us the warrants if we would promise not to harm the prosecuting witnesses. Bake told him he would guarantee and he would read the warrants to us. Bake told him we would be ready when us. Bake told him we would be ready when the next stage left. We were a good deal suspicious of Poole as he was so closely related to Dave Poole the noted bushwhacker and feared he might steer us into an ambush where they would kill us all so Montgomery

told the boys to saddle up and follow us to Warrensburg for fear Clements' friends would ambush us on the road. The next morning we started. There was no one else in the stage but the marshal, Bacon Montgomery, James Turley, Tom Tibbs and myself. Poole's son was on horseback as guard. After going some distance on the way to Warrensburg without any trouble the boys began to feel devilish and thought they would have some fun with the guard so they commenced shooting up the dirt around him and he soon took to the brush. Poole thought his time had come and shook like a leaf but Montgomery quieted him by assuring him that neither he nor his son were in any danger for the boys were just in fun. We reached Warrensburg all O. K. and there took the train for Jefferson City. Just as the whistle blew for Sedalia, one of the complaining witnesses opened the car door, came in and took a seat by the door. Tibbs and I were seated a few seats in front when the door opened and Tibbs looked back to see who came in. As soon as he discovered who it was, Tibbs said, "See me wing that s—n of b—b," and before I could realize what he was doing he pulled his gun and shot the old fellow through the ear. He did not wait for the train to stop but just got off and took the next train. When we reached Jefferson City, Poole took us around to lock us up but we politely tipped our hats and bade him "good evening." He then followed us around, stopping at the same hotel we did until we had our preliminary hearing. We were placed under one hundred dollar bonds which we declined to give and we also declined to be locked up.

Most of our boys had come down and all were heavily armed. I had the least number of guns of any in my belt and I had four six shooters.

Trouble was averted by Gen. Miller of St. Louis, Col. Boyd of Springfield and Bill Fletcher going on the bond. I think this was arranged by the late C. P. Townsley who was in attendance at the Legislature as a Senator from Sedalia. When our trial came off we were all acquitted and the boys scattered to their homes, Turley, McCabe and I returning to Sedalia.

## THE MENNONITE COLONY NEAR DUNDEE

**S**HORTLY after the completion of the Santa Fe railway through Barton County, in the spring of 1875, that company through its emigrant bureau extensively advertised its lands throughout all sections where it was possible to reach those seeking new homes, and this literature was scattered broadcast over sections of Russia and agents were stationed in New York to meet and guide them to this locality. By these means a large proportion of the present population of Barton County were induced to settle and improve

the lands to their present state of productivity, and became factors in making this county what it is today. That these people had long been in search of a land in which to make their homes is proven by their past history which is that in 1802 their ancestors emigrated from Germany to Russia on an agreement with the Empress of Russia that they were to make their own laws and govern themselves in a limited way for ninety-nine years; be exempt from military duty and be free in religious observances. When their descendants



left Russia for America this period would soon expired and they left rather than submit to the laws that would soon be forced upon them, the adoption of the Greek Catholic religion, and service in the Russian army.

The majority of those who settled here had lived in small communities or villages in Russia and were weavers, lumber sawers and farmers by trade. They had been supplied by companies stationed at a distance with the material and work, and had depended more on this means of subsistence than on that of agriculture. To govern such a village it had been found necessary to form themselves in a compact body with a responsible head, and that manner of organization was at first attempted here by the colony which settled one mile east of the present town of Dundee. There were fifteen families in this colony, and they entered the whole of section 16, under the homestead act, and bought the whole of section 9 from the Santa Fe railway Company on payments covering eleven years. Both sections were divided originally into twenty equal parts and this gave to each family a tract of thirty-two acres on each section; or sixty-four acres in all. On section 16 they built houses out of 4x6 lumber and there made their homes and gardens, and on section 9 they pitched their crops. The fifteen cottages formed a village, and near the center of this was built a stone school house, which also served as a church building. The ruler or head officer was called "the schultz," and for convenience he had his home near the school building, and his residence served as a council house. Abraham Seibert was the first pastor of this Mennonite congregation but he was not a resident of the village, but lived with his parents about two miles southeast of the settlement, and now lives in Michigan. Those who made up the village are the families of Cornelius D. Unruh, (deceased), Cornelius Thomas, (deceased), Henry Seibert, (deceased), Christian

C. Schultz, Mrs. Lizzie Rudiger, Andrew P. Unruh, Jacob Seibert, (deceased), Benjamin Unruh, (deceased), Andrew B. Unruh, first schultz, (deceased), Peter Unruh, Cornelius P. Unruh (deceased), Andrew A. Seibert, living in Marion County, Mrs. Susan Unruh, (deceased), Benjamin P. Smith and Peter H. Dirks. Henry B. Unruh also purchased his first home from this colony, but as he was not a resident until March, 1876, is not included in the original settlers. It will also be seen that the original intentions of the community were never carried out as the plans were for twenty families and only fifteen came under the agreement. The scheme was found impractical in this country after about three of four years trial and the various members became better acquainted with the freedom of the laws in America. As their holdings were independent of their village agreement they finally decided to become in fact free American citizens and one by one sold their first little homes and bought larger and better farms in other localities and are now classed among Barton County's most substantial and best citizens.

At that date there were other German-Russian settlers in this same and other localities in the county, and the Santa Fe system and other railways realized that they were of the proper make-up to make good citizens and provided emigration houses along their lines. There was one at nearly all depots for the accommodation of these new arrivals and in these they settled temporarily, lived while they provided permanent homes for their families. Where these houses were not yet built box cars were often put to use for temporary homes, and it was in a car on a siding in Pawnee Rock that Jacob P. Dirks, of "Mount Pleasant Hillside Farm" was born, and in an emigrant house at Newton, Kansas, that Jacob A. Dirks, of "North Slope Farm," first breathed the breath in free Kansas.

## SETTLEMENTS

### Buffalo Township

THE U. S. Census of 1870 found two people in what is now Barton County. These were undoubtedly John Reinecke and Henry Schultz who made settlement on the Walnut in April, 1870. Their locations were in section 10-19-14, about six miles northwest of Great Bend.

The only other settlers within the county's limits in 1870 were: W. C. Gibson, Gideon F. Mecklem and son, Henry Meyer, Wm. Jans, Rudreas Albrecht, Antone Wilkie, George Barry, N. Fields, C. F. Brining, A. Kellar, C. B. Worden, Mike Stanton, E. Warring. These men settled close together in what is now Buffalo and Walnut township. Their residences generally dugouts were from four to seven feet

deep in the earth, covered with grass and earth. They were usually constructed in some secluded place near the creek bank where good drainage could be had, or in some side-hill, so that the roof or occasional smoke would not be noticed. It is said one might go the entire length of the creek and even pass within one hundred yards of these dugouts without being aware of their presence. There was one log house in 1870 built by Mr. Mecklem. It was built with loop holes and very small windows and designed as a means of defense against the Indians. The principal occupation of the settlers during the first years was the slaughter of buffaloes, the flesh of which during the cooler months was marketed



at Russell and Ellsworth, thirty and fifty miles distant respectively, but in the summer months aside from the flesh for eating the only available proceeds were from the hides which when dried sold at 50 to 90 cents each. A few plowed and tried to raise crops which were generally destroyed by the buffaloes. Henry Schulz succeeded in 1870 in raising six acres of corn and two acres of oats.

Attempts at cultivation were made more fully in 1871 since the Indians were not deemed

troubles me any more. In this year some corn was raised but much of the crop was destroyed by the corn worm. Spring wheat was a failure and oats but little better.

Corn was then worth \$1.00 to \$1.50 per bushel but there was very little to sell. Since this time Buffalo township has grown in population until in 1912 it has a population of 467 and is one of the best townships in the county.

## Great Bend Township

The first settlements in Great Bend township were made in 1871, the first settlers being E. J. Dodge and sons, D. N. Heizer, A. C. Moses and sons, John Cook, E. W. Dewey, Nicholas Hausherr, J. P. Bissell, J. F. Tiltan, G. N. Moses, James R. Bickerdyke, W. H. Odell and others. The earliest settlers located on the banks of Walnut creek which, of course, had the advantage of plenty of fuel, running water, shelter and promised a deeper and a richer soil than could be found in the surrounding country. The date and location of filing declaratory statements as copied from the records are as follows. These entries are all in township 19, range 13.

| Name—                   | Date    | Sec. |
|-------------------------|---------|------|
| E. J. Dodge .....       | 6-23-71 | 10   |
| David N. Heizer .....   | 5-23-71 | 22   |
| Wallace H. Dodge .....  | 6-20-71 | 4    |
| Chas. E. Dodge .....    | 6-20-71 | 1    |
| Amasa C. Moses .....    | 6-28-71 | 10   |
| Arthur H. Moses .....   | 6-28-71 | 10   |
| Thomas B. Morris .....  | 7-12-71 | 26   |
| Ed. W. Dewey .....      | 7-19-71 | 4    |
| N. Hausherr .....       | 8-10-71 | 10   |
| Julius P. Bissell ..... | 8-18-71 | 10   |

|                         |          |    |
|-------------------------|----------|----|
| J. F. Tiltan .....      | 8-25-71  | 32 |
| W. H. Odell .....       | 8-29-71  | 30 |
| J. R. Bickerdyke .....  | 8-29-71  | 16 |
| H. B. Bickerdyke .....  | 9-3-71   | 32 |
| G. N. Moses .....       | 9-14-71  | 30 |
| Henry Schaffer .....    | 9-18-71  | 30 |
| Warren Peck .....       | 9-22-71  | 11 |
| Edwin P. Reynolds ..... | 12-16-71 | 14 |
| S. S. Dennis .....      | 3—-72    | 22 |
| E. B. Cowgill .....     | 3—-72    | 22 |
| John Cook .....         | 4-8-72   | 8  |

There were about thirty other filings made during the year 1871 by people who shortly afterwards abandoned their claims and moved.

The first settler in the township was D. N. Heizer, the second one being E. J. Dodge, who first came in May, 1871. He stopped at Heizer's ranch during the latter's absence, and went back to the Smoky and returned in June, taking out homestead papers on the twenty-third of the month, his being the first entry in the township. This township now has a population of 435 and adds greatly each year to the products of the county.

## Lakin Township

On May 20, 1871, there were six different exploring parties in the Walnut, near the site of old Fort Zarah. Among those were D. N. Heizer, M. W. Halsey, Dr. Prescott and Captain Guffin. Most of these outfits went into camp Saturday, a few having been in camp for several days.

About September 20, 1871, a party of five from Atlanta, Rice County, came to look for claims in Lakin township, near where Ellmwood now stands. Considerable trouble was had in finding section corners, the settlers finally going to Fort Zarah reservation where they commenced running east, and continued as far as section 10, township 20, range 11 W. M. W. Halsey selected the first location, the southwest quarter of 32-19-11. Then followed locations by the following:

| Name—              | Date    | Location |
|--------------------|---------|----------|
| Aaron Strong ..... | 10-6-71 | 28-19-12 |

|                         |          |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Aaron Burlison .....    | 10-11-71 | 32-19-11 |
| Andrew McKinney .....   | 1-15-72  | 28-19-11 |
| Wm. N. Halsey .....     | 1-19-72  | 32-19-11 |
| Lee M. Colline .....    | 3-15-72  | 4-20-11  |
| Thos. Corbett .....     | 3-21-72  | 20-19-11 |
| Albert C. Corbett ..... |          | Same     |
| A. Merrifield .....     | 3-30-72  | 26-19-12 |
| John H. Duncan .....    | 4-9-72   | 18-19-11 |
| Moses D. Fletcher ..... | 4-20-72  | 25-19-11 |
| Edwin Sew and           |          |          |
| James Saw .....         | 4-20-72  | 30-19-11 |
| Benj. Halley .....      | 5-13-72  | 30-19-11 |
| Encas Pendergast .....  | 5-18-72  | 2-20-11  |
| Geo. T. Gill .....      | 6-3-72   | 14-19-11 |
| Wm W. Shannon .....     | 6-5-72   | 26-19-11 |
| Alex. Forsyth .....     | 7-1-72   | 18-19-11 |
| Jos. B. Howard .....    | 7-7-72   | 34-19-12 |
| Nelson Davis .....      | 7-16-72  | 4-20-11  |
| Geo. Towers .....       | 8-26-72  | 26-19-12 |
| John C. Smith .....     | 10-11-72 | 22-19-12 |

## OF BARTON COUNTY, KANSAS

|                                |          |                                  |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Austin B. Lynch .....10-1-72   | 26-19-11 | Mort. B. Fitts .....11-15-73     | 22-19-12 |
| David J. Whitten .....11-15-72 | 24-19-12 | Wilson E. Chalfent .....11-30-73 | 26-19-11 |
| Chas. Grant ..... 2- 5-73      | 28-19-11 | Jas. E. Reaugh .....11-26-73     | 8-20-11  |
| Grabill Landis ..... 2-20-73   | 28-19-11 | David N. Howard .....12- 4-73    | 22-19-12 |
| R. A. Avery ..... 3-22-73      | 6-20-11  | Amos McDowell .....12-19-73      | 11-19-11 |
| James Thompson .... 5- 1-73    | 10-19-11 | John J. Maydole ..... 1-17-74    | 22-19-12 |
| Wm. H. Misner ..... 5-10-73    | 14-19-12 | W. L. Robbins ..... 1-20-74      | 24-19-12 |
| Mahlon Ward ..... 5-19-73      | 10-19-11 | Robert Robe ..... 1-22-74        | 22-19-12 |
| Geo. Bacon ..... 5-23-73       | 24-19-11 | John Salmon ..... 3-26-74        | 26-19-12 |
| Emil Kwamp ..... 5-23-73       | 5-19-11  | Luman W. Storey ... 3- 4-74      | 4-19-11  |
| Thomas Blair and               |          | Sam B. Hamon ..... 3-14-74       | 12-19-12 |
| Wm. Blair ..... 6-16-73        | 4-19-11  | Benj. H. Prescott .... 4-16-74   | 12-19-12 |
| Royal Harkness ..... 6-28-73   | 34-19-11 | Jas. B. Patrick ..... 7-23-74    | 28-19-12 |
| Daniel Hodge ..... 1- 2-73     | 34-19-11 | John F. Lewis ..... 9- 2-74      | 2-10-12  |
| Henry Strohmeyer ... 7-15-73   | 20-19-11 | Bernard B. Smyth ... 9-1-74      | 28-19-12 |
| Sam S. Avery ..... 7-32-73     | 34-19-12 | Calvin A. Loomis ....10-11-74    | 34-19-12 |
| Philander Reed ..... 7- 5-73   | 8-19-11  | Thos. M. Bailey .....10-20-74    | 30-19-11 |
| Wallace C. Bay ..... 73        | 8-19-11  |                                  |          |
| Stephen A. Shilling . 9-25-73  | 28-19-11 |                                  |          |
| Otto C. Lebbin .....11- 4-73   | 10-19-12 |                                  |          |
| J. E. Robe .....11- 5-73       | 14-19-11 |                                  |          |
| O. M. Botson .....11- 6-73     | 10-19-11 |                                  |          |
| Wm. Joy .....11-11-73          | 14-19-11 |                                  |          |

Lakin township now has a population of 633 and with one or two exceptions has the largest population of any of the townships in the county. Very few of the old timers are left, most of them having died or moved away.

### Walnut Township

In this township some of the first settlements in the county were made. It was originally a part of Buffalo township. The first to take a filing in this territory was Rudreus Albright, he having made his entry November 26, 1870, on 32-18-15. This entry was followed by those of Alex Kellar, on section 24; Christian F. Brining, on section 30 and Narsene Graves on section 28. These filings were made during the month of December, 1870. Those who came during the following years were: Charles Roudebush, S. M. Basham, Martin Brining and Edwin C. Rest, all of

whom arrived in 1872. Adam Krause came in 1873. The year 1874 saw Henry Halderman, Sylvester E. Demning, C. E. Dean, Leonard Krause, Daniel Leininger, Cyrus J. Fry and A. Kellar located in this township. In 1875 Joseph Zimmer, Anton Springer, Ambrose Baier, Johann Schneider, Josef Baier, Karl Kriessel, Francis Keast, Johan Zimmerman, Otto Burger and Henry Nordmann were added to the township's population. Walnut township now has a population of 693 and contains among its list of residents some of the most enterprising and successful farmers in the county.

### Eureka Township

The first settler in Eureka township was Charles B. Worden, who located on township 18, range 14, in 1871. The next entries following were: George Barry, John W. Pascoe, John K. Humphrey and James Mecklem, who came in 1873. They were preceded by L. G. Mecklem, who arrived in 1872. In 1874 Elbert Warring, Wyland D. Robbins, Wm. Humphrey, Nathaniel White, David F. Spires, Benj. L.

Dawson and Frank Patterson arrived and made locations. They were followed in 1875 by Aaron P. Jones, James C. Powers, Rhoda H. Keeney, James Hughes, Stephen Power, John Corrigan, M. M. Shields, John R. Harris, Richard Caxon, John Jones, John Lynch, Elizabeth Smith, Alexander Dennis and James W. Brown. Eureka township now has a population of 302.

### Clarence Township

T. S. Morton was the first settler in Clarence township and he located on section 14, in 1871. He first engaged in the cattle business but he soon gave it up for farming. Daniel Curry and E. M. Chapman located on section 14, in 1873. Julius B th settled on section 20 in 1872 and for the first few years after his

arrival was one of the best known and most successful buffalo hunters in this part of the country.

In the same year John Bennet and L. S. Pursell settled on section 30. They were soon followed by T. J. Byrne. During the same year D. C. Stephens, G. S. Bennet and T.

F. Craig located on section 20, and by the fall of 1873-4 that part of the county was well settled and farming was in full swing. Two of the largest wheat growers in the county were added to Clarence's population in 1874. They were Robert Campbell and Joseph Patterson. Mr. Campbell located on section 14 while Mr. Patterson located on section 17. By 1876 there was no unoccupied land in the township and it had three good schools, the first having been built in 1874 on section 20, the second in 1875 on section 14 and the third on section 31 in 1876. The following names are

found among those who settled in this township in the early days. W. A. Chapman, David Curry, David C. Stephens and W. H. Brown in 1873; Peter Schlim, Almon M. Button, Wesley E. Loomis, M. F. Campbell, Geo. S. Bement, Tammen C. Tammen and Isaac Goatley in 1874. During the year 1875 the following settled in Clarence township: Wm. Morris, Jas. K. Grier, Mahala Allison, John H. Rhodes and Thomas Irons. The township now has a population of 374 and contains within its borders rich, fertile and well cultivated agricultural land.

### Comanche Township

Comanche township includes within its borders land that in the early days a great many thought was practically worthless but this was proved to be untrue by the results obtained after the soil had been cultivated. The first settler in Comanche was Joseph Plaisted, who located just across the river from Ellinwood in 1871. Among others who

followed Mr. Plaisted's lead were Carl Herter, John Herter, Chas. B. Darr, Will H. Grant, John C. Procter, David T. McIntyre, John Hamilton, J. S. Province, all of whom made good and made of this township one of the best and most productive in the county. It now has a population of 688.

### South Bend Township

The settlement of South Bend township was begun in 1872, the first person to locate government land being Samuel Maher, Matthew Schmitz, Henry F. Schridde and A. J. Buckland. They were followed in 1873 by W. H. H. Keeney, J. M. Albright, Hallis Chaffee, H. H. Kidder, Theo. Dahm, James Barke and Peter Lefevre. Those who located in this part of the county in 1874 were: T. C. Coker, T.

Vancil, Fred Dahm, Daniel Shuhl, Richard S. Atkins, George Denna, James G. Dawson, Wm. Torrey, Richard L. Howell and Edwin C. Renkin. In 1875, A. C. Sowle, Carlton D. Alford, Hiram Brownell, Ira D. Brougher, Wm. Hood and C. J. Mackenroth made entries on land in this township. It has always added its share to the production of the county and now has a population of 422.

### Pawnee Rock Township

The first settlement was made in this township when the Kentucky colony, consisting of twenty persons arrived. In the party were T. C. Polk, John W. Smith and George M. Jackson, who was the leader of the colony. Mr. Jackson first located near Ellinwood but at a meeting which was attended by all the members of the colony it was decided that the land in Pawnee Rock township was the best to be found in the county. Accordingly it was decided that they would take up their land there. On March 23, 1872, a celebration was held in honor of their arrival at the historic pile of stone known as Pawnee Rock. In addition to those already named the following were among the first settlers in this township: Wm. C. Hatter, Dennis Logan, S. P. Leitner and D. M. Sutherland. In 1874 the following were added to the township's population: W. M. Jenks, F. J. Jas. n, Charles C. Lewis, Eli, Wm. H. and Hiram Bowman, Robert J. Smith, Aaron F. Miller,

Joseph Hanon, John W. Graves, John Rea, Isaiah Pelsor and J. F. Pearce. This township now has a population of 356.

Settlement was begun in this township early in 1872. Among those who selected claims were the following: In 1872, Wm. Hartshorn, Ed. Tyler, Luther Frost, John McMullin, Evan Thornberg, Nelson H. Richie, Willis M. Howerton, Henry Fruit, Eliza Hartshorn, Wm. H. McGreevey, John H. Doel, Joshua Lyle. In 1873, Charles B. Rose, Andrew J. Acton, George N. Welch, Oscar O. Hartshorn, Wm. H. Quincup, Frank Sheldon, Thomas Keenan, and in 1874, Sample S. Sanford, John Lyle and Lorenzo Leach. That portion of the township known as Washburn precinct was settled in 1874 by A. C. Barnes, Wm. Hayes, Vincent Coale, Samuel H. Mitchell, Chas. B. Morgan, Robert M. Shields, Wm. Dunn and Wm. R. Julian. This township now has a population of 387.

### Logan Township

This township was originally a part of Iarkin township and the first settlements were made within its borders in 1872. During that year, and in 1873, the following took up their residence in this part of the county: Richard Yielding, Henry Galloway, W. D. Fairbairn, Wm. Landman, Thos. F. Mahan and John L. Barngrover. In 1874 a number of new settlers were added to the township's population. Among those who came after 1873 were: Geo. W. McClimans, Chas. C. O'Brien, Geo.

M. O'Brien, Joseph Ozenberger, Benj. M. Moore, James B. Montgomery, Stephen Branch, Myron H. Young, Christopher Bock, Edward H. Grizzle, Aaron W. Ward, Joseph N. Ward, Frank Nichols, Joseph Lunz, A. Barngrover and Thos. F. Harris. This was one of the first townships in the county in which the railroad land was all bought by the settlers and all the government land was taken up. It now has a population of 379.

### Homestead Township

J. H. Burnham was the first settler in Homestead township and he, with his father-in-law, A. Baker, settled in 1873. During the summer and autumn of that year, F. A. Speece and family, S. P. Coan, O. Beisyle, J. M. Hughes, F. M. Phillips, S.uhn and E. D. Campbell arrived and made locations. Some of these were frightened away by the grass-

hopper scare of 1874. The hoppers retarded the settlement of this part of the county and it was some time before the bad impression was changed to one of confidence. Since the early days this township has come to the front and is now one of the most important ones of the county and has a population of 699.

### Fairview Township

This township is located in the northwest corner of the county and the first to make settlement within its borders were: James

and John Johnson, Henry McCorkle, James Cox, Oliver A. Martin, M. V. B. Hedrick and J. J. W. Sutcliff, all of whom arrived in 1877.

### Beaver Township

The first settlement in Beaver township was made in 1876 and among those who located during this year may be mentioned: Abraham R., John and George H. Dressler, John H. Beard and Robert S. Bruce. In 1877

John M. Rearick, Miranda Fothergill, John F. Dale, James and L. H. F. Brinson and John and Thomas Bryant took up locations in this township. It now has a population of 318.

### Union and Wheatland Townships

The first settlements in the townships of Union and Wheatland were made in 1877. In that year Union had three resident families, but within a little more than a year there were fifty-seven voters within its borders. Wheatland enjoyed about the same kind of a growth. The first settlers in Union township were: Joseph Weatherby, Daniel R. Wyatt and John Dundas, who came in 1876. They were followed by Jacob, Michael, and Martin J. Sessler, James H. Butler, Anna S. Verbeck, Benj. and Oliver P. Dunning, Benj. H. and Wright F. Downing, Geo. M. Gillet, Stanley F. Prindle, Jerome B. Huntley, P. B. Leigh, James Welty, J. Wonseller and Richard Wehr

who came in 1877.

Among the first to arrive in Wheatland township were: Washington Spencer, James Galbraith and Wm. B. Mitchell, who came in 1875. During the following year the following located in Wheatland: George W. Watson, Francis Millard, Dr. Norman Baker, Howard N. Fordham, Rial R., Henry J., and John Whipple, Geo. C. Gray, Silas S. Wilkerson, Israel D. Spencer, James E. Savage, George Keil, Richard Kittle, John W. Beaman and Charles Hall. The township of Wheatland now has a population of 443 while Union has 347.



### Cheyenne Township

The first settlers in Cheyenne township were Phillip Smith, Henry Smith and J. G. Hine, who came in 1873. In the following year, 1874, J. G. Lewis and family and A. Golley and family, made a location on Crow creek making a total of four families residing on the creek banks, in that section of the county. In the spring of 1875 C. Frankie settled on section 14 and a man by the name of Miller took up a location on section 30. By the year 1877 nearly all the government land in this town-

ship was taken up and among the early settlers not mentioned above may be mentioned the following: J. A. Krum, 1874; Henry J. Gifford, Herman Hesse, N. A. Miller and W. Klesen, 1875, and the year 1876 saw the arrival of John Machin, W. N. Godren and Henry Smith. Mr. Newcomb was the first resident in the county to take up the raising of thoroughbred stock. This township now has a population of 710.

### Cleveland Township

Cleveland township was not organized until long after the early days, that is the really pioneers times were passed. However, it is

now one of the good townships of the county and has a population of 305.

### Albion and Grant Townships

The first settlement in these townships was made in 1873 by Hugh Henry and John Boyle and they were followed in 1874 by Henry and Putnam White. Those who followed closely with locations in these townships were: Joseph Bahr, D. Linder, Robert Benton, Chas. Chamberlain, Isaac T. Flint, A. Stiver, John Hancock, Carl Wonderlich, Johann Schneider and J. O. C. Rathbun. Blood Creek traverses these townships from the northwest and is said to have derived its name from the fact that after the close of the Mexican war Colonel Doniphan and his troops engaged the Cheyenne Indians in a battle that caused the banks to be spotted with blood which colored the waters for several miles. This is said to have occurred in 1849 and was one of the most terrific Indian battles of those times. These townships are now among the important ones of the county, Grant having a population of 341 and Albion 318.



Early Blood Creek Settlers

### Independent Township

The first settlement made in this township was in 1874 by A. C. Schermerhorn, Jacob T. Spring, James Dalziel, Arthur Dougan, Frank Lorence, Gustav Teepke, Geo. W. Arters,

Henry Rohlfing and Wm. H. Travis. It is a most productive section of the county and has a population in 1912 of 351.

### GEORGE TOWERS

**I** CAME from Wisconsin with a colony to Fossell, now called Russell. About sixty persons came out on the first train, each a business lot and a residence lot. I think it was about April 15, 1871, at 3 p. m., we landed at Fossell. A section house and a

water tank of the K. P. railroad were all the buildings we found there, and these were run by the section foreman. His name was John Cook. Many of the old settlers know him now. Before we got there the Indians killed two of the section men and they were

Captain Ruger and myself were partners. It cost us \$20 each to join the colony. That gave buried on what is now Main street, Russell. We all took homesteads or pre-emptions and broke up land and planted sod corn, beans, potatoes and other vegetables, but the dry weather set in and hot winds prevailed, and farming was not a success. Some of us heard what a fine valley there was on the Arkansas river. So we made up a small party of men, composed of J. H. Hubbard, E. M. Benedict, John Cook, Edward Swan, Edward Dewey, Art Moses and his father, J. E. Dodge and George Towers. The first day we made Walnut creek, Barton County. There we found the only two settlers of the county. Their names were Mecklem and John Reinicke. We camped that night with them. They told us about the land down the creek and said the A. T. & S. F. R. R. surveyors were coming west laying out the road. It was only completed at that time to Newton. They told us the number of the section they were on, so we very soon knew what section we could locate on. As the odd sections were claimed by the railroad John Cook staked the first claim down the creek, Edward Dewey the next and then J. E. Dodge, Benedict and Swan the next ones in rotation. Hubbard staked the Goforth ranch. The next night we camped at Walnut creek at old Fort Zarah, which had just been abandoned. All the other boys staked claims on the creek or as near as they could. The second morning they said: "George, where did you put your stake?" I told them I had found no place to put it. I said "Let us go up the river and see how it looks." When we got to where Great Bend now stands the whole country was covered with buffalo. We killed a buffalo near where the court house now stands. I looked around and said to the boys: "Well, you have all taken timber claims, so I will put my stake here for a homestead." As there were so many buffalo around I told them while they had staked timber claims I had staked a stock ranch. My stock soon disappeared. We then started back for Fossell. When we got there we reported what we had found and done. In a short time the most of the boys returned to make improvements on their claims. As I was in partnership with Nick German in a blacksmith shop I would not then get away to make my improvements. John Hubbard and Capt. Ruger went into partnership and put up a little above on Hubbard's claim. Capt. Ruger run the store, while Hubbard went into the land business making out filing papers, and sending them to the land office in Salina. I gave him my money and my discharge papers and told him to find out if my stake was on a government section and if so to make out a soldier's homestead. About two months after he came up to Fossell for supplies, when he told me he was sorry he had not made out my homestead papers and that a colony from Quincy, Ill., had jumped my claim and had laid out the town of Great

Bend. The ones who located and laid out the town were D. N. Heizer, Geo. Moses, Thos. Stone, Morris, and Murphy, A. S. Allen, Edw. Tyler were the first settlers of the colony. In the month of January, 1871, Capt. Ruger came up to Fossell and said that they had laid out a town about one mile east of Fort Zarah and had named it Zarah City and were going to make a railroad town of it, and wanted me to go down there and start a blacksmith shop and they would give me two lots if I would do so. Next day Capt. Ruger and I started for Zarah City. The captain had taken a claim north of Zarah City, where we stayed all night. Next morning we went over to the city. We found a good sized store in operation, owned by Perry Hodgen and Tike Buckley from Salina. They were the head men of the city. There was a two-story hotel and restaurant owned and run by Dick Strew. A livery stable owned by John Roberts and John Moore, and a saloon owned by Lee Herzigg from Ellsworth, and run by Edw. Martz. They gave me a corner lot next to the livery stable. A stockman by the name of Jack Jamieson, who had wintered a thousand head of cattle there and drove them in the spring to Montana, said he wanted me to start in business to do his blacksmithing as he had considerable work he wanted done before he started the drive sometime in June. About the first of March, 1872, I moved down to Capt. Ruger's where both our families lived together. I put up a small shop and had a good trade while it lasted. The A. T. & S. F. R. R. was then completed to Hutchinson. Then Zarah City and Great Bend got to fighting, over the question as to which was to be the railroad town. Great Bend won out and I never will forget the first dance in Great Bend. It was at the Stoneham hotel, run by Thos. Stone. Capt. Ruger and myself furnished the music. I want to say we had a gay old time. Everyone had a jolly good time while at the dance. I met Sid Crane, one of Jamieson's herders. He told me that he had filed on some land about one and one-half miles west of Ellinwood. He had done a little plowing on it and would take five dollars for his rights. I gave him the money and put my homestead papers on it. They had laid out a town at Ellinwood. Capt. Ruger, Joe Howard and I went down and helped lay out the town. The railroad company gave each of us a lot for doing the work. Capt. Ruger and Howard put up a hotel. They gave me the corner lot where the Cyclone store now stands. I bought the adjoining lot for \$40. I put up a small shop and did blacksmithing for the settlers and cowboys. As many of the settlers were people of limited means they soon run through with what they had and could not pay for their smithing. I told them I would do their work and they could break up some land for me on my claim and I would allow them three dollars per acre. In that way I got sixty acres under cultivation. I built a small house and had a good well of fine water

and one acre of orchard. The first year I rented it to Jim Wilkinson on shares, each one-half of the produce. We did very well. The next year I rented it to John M. Harris. Each furnished one-half of the seed. I got one-half of the crop of forty acres of wheat which yielded well. The next year I rented to a preacher, Hackensmith. He raised a fine crop of forty acres of wheat which he cut with a header and put it into fine stacks; sixteen acres of roasting ears, when one of the Kansas hail stone storms and blizzards came and destroyed everything I had. Our wheat stack was blown for miles away. The corn and vegetables were all gone when the storm cleared away. I did not have enough left to

fill my hat. That sickened me of farming, so I sold out for almost nothing and in 1880 came to Colorado. Although I know now if I had stuck to old Kansas I might be in better circumstances than what I am now in or perhaps I might have been in the pen. My brother, Matt Towers, came to Hoisington since I left Kansas. He has now two hundred acres of land and has made a success of farming, but has had worse luck, losing a good wife, a great deal worse than losing a little old 40 acres of wheat, as I think I might be worse off after all. I made more money in Kansas killing buffalo than I have made in the hills of Colorado hunting gold.

## EARLY POLITICAL HISTORY

**A**MID the hurry and bustle of business in the spring of 1872, men did not altogether forget their political duties and privileges and, it being the year of a presidential election, the duty of "saving the country" rested with scarcely less weight on the minds of the pioneers of Barton County than on those nearer the center of civilization and political corruption. Meetings were held by the Republicans in each of the three townships—Lakin, Great Bend and Buffalo—in the month of July, to select members of the Republican central committee. At the meeting in Great Bend A. J. Buckland, who had arrived here a short time before from New York state, was chosen chairman of the first political caucus in Great Bend and probably was first one in the county. The committee thus selected soon after met and organized by electing W. H. Odell as chairman and D. N. Heizer, secretary.

The time of holding the county convention was set. It was to consist of twenty members, five from Lakin township, five from Buffalo township, and ten from Great Bend township. The convention assembled in a building then standing at the corner of the court house square. M. V. Halsey of Lakin was elected township chairman. In addition to the delegates already mentioned, five delegates not in the call were sent down from the colony at Pawnee Rock and claimed admission. An angry discussion arose on the question of admitting them, when a large number of delegates, including the chairman, withdrew from the convention. Those remaining reorganized by electing A. A. Hurd, chairman, and proceeded to nominate a county ticket.

During the campaign of that year 1872—Hon. W. H. Smallwood, candidate for secretary of state; Hon. S. A. Cobb, candidate for congress, and Hon. S. C. Pomeroy, candidate for United States senator, addressed the citizens of Great Bend on the issues of the campaign.

The first political discussion in Great Bend

was between G. W. Nimocks, a young lawyer from Iowa, on the Republican side and D. S. Copeland, also a lawyer, from New York, on the side of the Liberals. This discussion took place in the old Holland building which, at that time, stood on the north side of the square. The vote for president in that year was as follows: U. S. Grant, 169; Horace Greeley, 64. The county election was held without much friction and resulted, as shown in the table to be found in another part of this book under the heading of "County Officials of Barton County."

The delegates to the state convention at Topeka that year were: T. S. Morton and G. W. Nimocks; and to the congressional convention at Lawrence, J. B. Howard and Amerline.

During the following winter Barton County was detached from the county of Ellsworth and the Fourteenth judicial district, and became a part of the Ninth judicial district.

### FIRST TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS.

(In the following article the following abbreviations are used: Tre—trustee; C—clerk; T—treasurer; J—justice; Ccs—constables.)

Independent township was organized in 1875 and originally comprised all that portion of Lakin township north of a line between townships 18 and 19. The following officers were chosen at the first election held in the fall of that year: Tre., J. L. Bangrover; C., A. C. Schermerhorn; T., J. T. Soring; Jus., H. E. Bangrover and Chas. O. Blennis.

South Bend township was organized in 1876 and comprised all that portion of Great Bend and Buffalo townships south of the river except range 23. The officers chosen at the first election in November of that year were: Tre., Ira Brougher; C., George C. Kinkaid; T., S. J. Mitchell and Jus., Wm. Hood and O. Powell.

Walnut township was organized in 1876 and comprised all that portion of Buffalo township north of the line between townships



18 and 19. The first election was held in November of that year and resulted as follows: Tre., B. I. Dawson; C., Peter Fox; T., T. Harper; Jus., John Pascoe and H. White; Ces., John Westover and H. Nordmann.

Homestead township was organized in the fall of 1876 and comprised originally all that portion of Great Bend township north of the line between townships 18 and 19. The first election resulted in the election of the following officers: Tre., Marsh Meeker; T., D. B. Linder; C., F. Hall; Jus., J. Humphrey and J. Gere.

Union township was organized in July, 1878, and comprised all that portion of land included in township 16, range 13. The first election held in that year resulted in the selection of the following officers: Tre., B. H. Downing; C., Oliver A. Verity; T., Joseph Weatherby; Jus., Jacob Sessler and A. S. Verbeck.

Pawnee Rock township was organized in 1878, but previous to this, in 1872, it had been made a voting precinct. It comprised township 20, range 15. The election resulted in the selection of the following officers: Tre., Geo. Pool; C., Chas. Lewis; T., Reuben Kemmerling; Jus., Joseph Hannon and James M. Depew; C., Frank Hallowell and W. C. Hatterter.

Beaver township was organized in August, 1878, and comprised township 16 of range 12. The first election was held in that year and the following officers were elected: Tre., R. Bruce; C., Willis H. Norton; T., P. B. Freeman; Jus., C. Norton and C. W. Hoffmeister.

Cheyenne township was organized in August, 1878, and comprised townships 17 and 18 of range 12. The officers elected were: Tre., C. B. Gillis; C., J. N. Reading; T., Wm. Linder; Jus., Albert Lent and S. S. O. Warren.

Wheatland township was organized in August, 1878, and comprised township 16 of range 14. The officers elected at the first election were: Tre., Chas. Hall; C., E. J. Hutton; T., M. Sauser; Jus., N. S. Hayes and Fred J. Spencer; Ces., Henry J. Whipple and O. T. Shook.

Fairview township was organized in October, 1878, and comprised township 16 of range 15. At the first election held in November of that year the following were chosen as officers of the township: Tre., J. W. Brown; C., D. C. Barrows; T., John Johnson; Jus., Will H. Clark and Henry Webb; Ces., Robert Jordan and W. A. Brown.

Clarence township was organized in October, 1878, and consisted of congressional township 19 of range 15. The first election was held in November of that year and resulted as follows: Tre., M. F. Campbell; C., John W. Slinn; T., L. S. Pursell; Jus., A. M. Button and T. F. Craig; Ces., J. H. Rhoades and W. H. Allison.

Eureka township was organized in 1878

and comprised township 18 of range 18. The first officers elected in November of that year were: Tre., Frank Patterson; C., John R. Harris; T., Alex. Dennis; Jus., Aaron P. Jones and James Cummins; C., J. F. Smith and C. Plaisted.

Hayes, Seward, Lincoln and Zion Valley townships were organized in 1878 from the territory that originally was a portion of the unorganized county of Stafford. Hayes comprised congressional townships 22 and 23 of ranges 11 and 12. Seward, which was at first called Warren township, comprised township 21 and 22 of range 13. Lincoln comprised townships 21 and 22 of range 14; and Zion Valley comprised township 23 of ranges 13 and 14. Later they were all included in the organization of Stafford County.

Grant township was organized in July, 1879, and was composed of township 18 of range 15. At the first election held in November the following were chosen for officers: Tre., Chas. P. Wunderlich; C., John W. Burke; T., C. Cox; Jus., W. M. Butler and C. Ramsier; Ces., Joseph Gleissner and J. W. Brown.

Logan township was organized in July, 1879, under the name of Calumet. In November the name was changed to Logan. It was composed of township 18 of range 11. No election for officers was held in this township, it being governed by the officers of Independent township.

Comanche township was organized in July, 1879, out of territory formerly in Lakin township and was composed of township 20 of range 11 and 12, south of the Arkansas river. The first officers, elected in November of that year were: Tre., J. J. Brewer; C., W. H. Grant; T., J. W. Wilson; Jus., J. S. Province and C. Fields; Ces., Noah Province and D. Hagan.

Albion township was organized in July, 1879, and was composed of township 17 of range 14 and the first officers who were selected at the election held in November of the same year, were: Tre., C. G. Smith; C., C. W. McMasters; T., D. W. Linder; Jus., G. L. Murdock and John W. Linder; Ces., Thomas Murphy and Joseph Shields.

Liberty township was organized in October, 1879, and was composed of township 20 of range 14. The first officers were: Tre., Wm. Howerton; C., Wm. Brady; Ces., Milton Mossberger.

The commissioners districts as arranged in 1878 were as follows: First: Independent, Cheyenne, Lakin and Hayes townships; second: Beaver, Union, Homestead, Great Bend, Seward and Zion Valley; third: Wheatland, Fairview, Walnut, Clarence, Pawnee Rock, Buffalo and Lincoln.



## AN EARLY DAY CAMPAIGN AND BARBECUE IN BARTON

By Elrick C. Cole

THE political campaign in Barton County in 1880 was a warm one and among the various gatherings held that year, the barbecue at Dalziel's grove was, perhaps, the largest political gathering ever held in the county until the advent of the Populist party. At that time the Republican party, locally, was suffering severe defeats and the struggle for delegates from the state to the national convention had intensified party differences. That was the year when the great meeting of Arkansas valley politicians took place in Great Bend and the patriots gathered from Topeka to Colidge and fought out the proposition of Grant or Blaine and ended in a draw. The rival candidates for the Republican nomination for representative were A. J. Buckland and D. N. Heizer and a count of the delegates after the holding of the caucuses showed that Dave Heizer was the winner. When this fact was ascertained Buckland declined to have his name used in the convention and after an ineffectual attempt had been made to draw the delegates to some third man, he bolted the nomination of Heizer. Hon. F. A. Steckel of Ellinwood was the Democratic nominee, and the seceding Republicans nominated P. G. Donewitz, who was prominent in politics at that time, for representative, and Judge Townsley for attorney against G. W. Nimocks. This made a three-cornered fight and at that time every vote counted. It must be remembered that in 1880 we had no railroads in this county except the main line of the Santa Fe. Ellinwood and Pawnee Rock were the only points which could be reached save by wagon road, but one could travel angling then from the time you crossed the Walnut until the northeast or the northwest corner of the county was reached. Of course there were no towns aside from those on the railroads, but the rural population was almost, if not fully, as large as now, and an effort was made to reach nearly every school house in the county to hold a meeting. Up in Wheatland was Frank Millard, Charles Hall, Smed Wilkinson and others. In Albion W. H. Rice, Captain Peck, Murdock, Dave Gray and others. Over in Fairview lived Kirk Barrows, John

W. Brown and his son; over in Independent, which then included Cleveland township, were Al Schermerhorn, Jude Sping, Jim Dalziel and Charles Montgomery and the Dugans. In Buffalo, Levi Gunn, always true and faithful, the Everetts and L. H. Link and in Pawnee Rock were the Bowmans, Tom Brewer, Aaron Garverick and many whose names I do not now recall. Ellinwood was the Democratic stronghold and was only canvassed quietly but the rest of the county was alive with Republican meetings. I remember there was a school house called Alliance school house over near where Claflin now stands, where a large meeting was held. The crowning rally, however, was held at Dalziel's grove, the clans gathering from all the surrounding country. Great preparations were made for this meeting and the grove was filled with people. There was roast ox and everything else in the eating and drinking line in abundance. Among the speakers was a man named Minear, from Illinois. He was interested in the campaign by reason of the fact that his nephew, named Anderson Williams, at Pawnee Rock, was the candidate for commissioner from the Third district. Minear was a powerful speaker on the common homespun order and he reached the people in great shape. The crowd was so large that there were two speakers talking at the same time in different parts of the grove. I can see the old man now standing in a header barge, tall, angular and bony. His powerful voice and plain talk pleased his hearers and he received a hearty ovation at the close of his speech. There was a good glee club present and between speeches it sang popular campaign songs. It was way in the night before the meeting closed and many camped in the grove until the next day before returning to their homes. This was one of the most successful political meetings ever held in this county, and, while feeling was high, there was the utmost good nature and hearty enjoyment of the occasion. It was a day of pleasant meetings for people who seldom met as the means of travel were few and far between, and much slower than now. The place was ideal and the day a perfect one.

## NEWSPAPERS OF BARTON COUNTY

THERE is no single institution that has more to do with the development of a new county than the newspapers. People look to a newspaper for a true story of what one may expect to find in a community or settlement where the paper is published.

Barton County has been fortunate in having had gentlemen in the newspaper business who have done a great deal of work in helping to bring new blood and energy to the county, as well as capital, essentials that are so needful in a new country that is being developed.

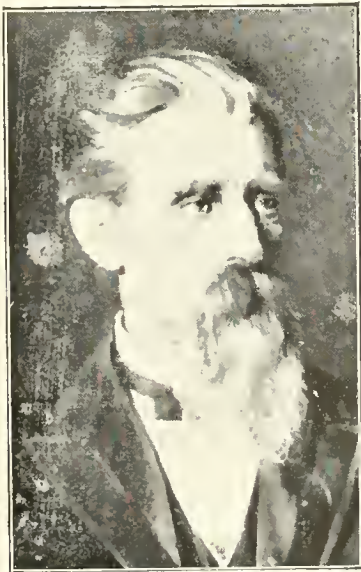
from its virgin state. The first newspaper published in the county was "The Arkansas Valley," edited by S. J. McFarren. There were but a few issues of this paper, the first edition being published in July, 1872. It was a seven-column paper, well filled with interesting news reading matter, local news and advertisements. It was printed at the office of the Tribune in Lawrence, Kan., and was owned by T. L. Morris and others. The salutatory editorial in the paper consisted chiefly of an apology for publishing a newspaper in the heart of the Great American Desert. The principal articles were those under the following headings: "Kansas," from the Pittsburg, Kan., Real Estate Register; "Enormous Cost of Fencing Land," "Stone Houses," "Tree Culture," "Swindling Immigrants," from the Kansas Farmer; "Exemption Laws of Kansas," "Barton County—Soil, Climate, Rain-fall, Health," "Information to Immigrants," "New Homestead Law," "Homesteads," "Tree Planting," "Bounty for Tree Planting," "Bounty for Hedges," "How to Come to Kansas," and various miscellaneous articles and useful information. Its local columns made mention of T. L. Stone's Great Western Hotel—the Southern; E. L. Morley, hardware dealer;

clerk; A. A. Hurd, M. S. Ketch and others, many of whom have long since passed away.

The advertisements in the first newspaper consisted of a three-column ad from the Western Homestead Co.—A. A. Hurd and T. L. Morris; a column of solid reading matter for the Illinois and Kansas Colony association, and smaller ads from W. D. Hart & Co., grocers; Hubbard and Heizer, groceries, lumber and real estate; John Typer, restaurant; S. Amryne, boots and shoes; Dahm Brothers, bakers; Jacob Collar and Co., millinery; Stone and Williams, dry goods; Great Western Hotel, which was run by Stone and Hudson; John Cook, groceries; Pioneer Grocery, Edward Markwort, Poole and Bell, livery stable; Mrs. J. Holland, news depot; James Holland, furniture; M. S. Ketch, gent's furnishing goods; Ed Tyler, restaurant; A. S. Allen, drugs; E. L. Morphy, hardware; Rice and Brinkman, lumber; Yoxall Sons and Co., lumber, etc.; Samecox and Fry, bakers; A. A. Hurd, lawyer, and Valley Printing office, and a number of smaller ads. The second number was issued in 1873. The outside was printed by A. N. Kellogg of St. Louis and was dated January 14, 1873, the inside—printed later—was dated January 27, 1873, and the advertisements were nearly all dated in April, 1873. It contained a directory of Barton county and Great Bend, articles on society in the country, articles favoring the erection of a court house and the Arkansas river bridge, forest trees, three election notices, an account of the farmers meeting for the organization of the County Agricultural society and a number of local readers. The new advertisers were: G. W. Nimocks, lawyer; D. N. Chapeland, lawyer; J. C. Martin, justice of the peace and police judge; J. H. Hubbard and Co., real estate; Samuel Maher, banker; W. H. Odell, county clerk; Typer House; Wilcox, Lehman and Gray, hardware; Benedict and Moffatt, painters; A. Giddens, horseshoeing; E. L. Dodge, blacksmith; J. H. Hubbard and Co., dry goods, and a big advertisement telling about the job office of the paper.

The price of the paper was \$2.00 per year and since it was published only twice a year, the paper cost the subscribers \$1.00 a copy. Mr. McFarren did not remain in the business very long, his place being taken in the publication of the paper by Samuel Maher, who continued the paper under McFarren's name until March, 1873, when McFarren's name was dropped.

In April, 1873, the name of the paper was changed to the "Barton County Progress." Mr. Maher moved the office to the Dubois building on the east side of the square. In May, Mr. Maher discontinued the publication of the paper on account of his inability to secure competent help. No paper was published until the following June, when H. Perrine Stults purchased the office for \$1,000 and continued publishing the Progress until the fall of 1873 when he grew weary and sold out the paper



Judge C. P. Townsley, Founder of The Tribune

er; A. S. Allen, druggist; Dahm Brothers, bakery; Rice and Brinkman, lumber merchants; Yoxall Sons and Company, lumber; Poole and Bell, livery stables; John Typer, restaurant building, a 20x60 foot hotel; Markwort's store to have a glass front; A. C. Moses and Sons running the store of W. D. Hart and Company on the north side of the square; Harpham and Giddings, blacksmiths; Samuel Maher, banker; John Cook, grocer; T. L. Morris, postmaster; W. H. Odell, county

to J. F. Cummins of Topeka. Cummins paid \$1,100.00 and assumed a debt of \$750.00 against the plant which was held by Samuel Maher. At first Cummings improved the paper and at the fall election was elected to represent this county in the legislature. During Mr. Cummings' absence the paper was in charge of D. M. Sells.

After Cummings returned from Topeka he did not give the paper the attention necessary to make it a success, and it was but a short time until G. L. Brinkman bought the mortgage against the plant, held by Samuel Maher and took possession. The plant was moved to the old Holland building which had just been moved to the north side of the square. A company was organized for the purpose of publishing a newspaper and conducting a job printing shop. The company was composed of G. L. Brinkman, G. W. Nimocks, D. N. Heizer, W. H. Odell, Joseph Howard and A. S. Prescott.

Cummings, the former editor of the paper, is said to have died of yellow fever at Memphis in 1878.

In 1873, Frank Sheldon started a monthly publication under the name of the Farmers'



S. J. McFarren, First Editor

Friend. It was made up mainly of reprint matter from the Progress and had but a short existence.

The next paper to be published in Great Bend was the Register, which was built upon the ruins of the Progress, which in 1874, had ceased publication. It was first edited by W. H. Odell with A. J. Hoisington as business manager. In June, 1874, Mr. Hoisington was placed in full charge as editor and manager. He got out a good paper and made it a powerful influence for good in the community.

In August, 1876, the 12th, to be exact, the

first number of the Inland Tribune made its appearance as a weekly paper. It was edited and published by C. P. Townsley who had been circuit judge of the Fifth judicial district of the state of Missouri. For several weeks it was composed of all home print, but finally the "patent inside" was adopted. This paper was the beginning of the present publications known as the Great Bend Daily Tribune and the Great Bend Weekly Tribune published by Will Townsley, a son of C. P. Townsley, and Warren Baker.

In May, 1877, a stock company was formed under the name of the Great Bend Publishing Company, which had for its purpose the publication of a Democratic weekly newspaper, under the name of the Arkansas Valley Democrat. Isaac T. Flint of Ottumwa, Ia., was chosen editor and manager.

The first number of the paper appeared July 21, 1877. After four weeks, Jos. B. Fugate, of Ottumwa, Ia., was taken in as a partner and five weeks later Mr. Flint sold his remaining interest to B. B. Smyth of Ellinwood, who had been an employee of the office since it began business.

Election was approaching and it was discovered that a successful campaign would depend on Smyth's being ousted from the office. Accordingly possession was demanded by the company and the demand was refused by Smyth. Then a replevin was issued from the circuit court and a re-delivery bond of \$2,000 was given by Smyth. Later the company became fearful of losing their interest in the concern and they made a deal whereby they bought Smyth's interest. He was succeeded by J. B. Fugate.

In 1878 the Kansas Volksfreund, a German Democratic weekly newspaper, was started in Great Bend. It was edited by Phillip Schmitz. This office introduced the first power press in the county, a handsome Cottrell and Balceek. In 1879 this paper was consolidated with the Stern des Westens, (Star of the West), of Wichita and the two plants were consolidated and moved to Topeka where the new publication was issued under the name of the Staats Anzeiger.

The Ellinwood Express was started in 1878 by Sheperd and Sterling, and for some time it was printed in the office of the Sterling Bulletin. During the same year Thomas L. Powers of Sterling took possession of the paper and established a printing office at Ellinwood. The Ellinwood paper now is called the Leader and is published by John McMullin.

The above gives an idea of the early newspapers in the county and since those days there have been a number of papers started that met with indifferent success and were finally either discontinued or absorbed by other publications.

Among those may be mentioned: The Item, Graphic, Evening News, Rustler and Morning News.

The Register, after A. J. Hoisington severed his connection with it the first time, was



owned by E. L. Chapman, Morgan Caraway, J. H. Borders, A. J. Hoisington and Ira Clark. Warren Baker and Ed Vollmer bought the Register and Daily Item and consolidated with the Tribune August 1, 1908. In 1909 Vollmer sold his interests to Townsley & Baker, the present owners.

In the fall of 1880 Tracy and Adams started the Barton County Democrat. This firm sold to A. Wolf, who in turn sold to W. H. Bright of McPherson. He sold to D. Langford in March, 1886. Will Stoke bought a half interest in the paper and later bought the remaining half from Langford. Mr. Stoke sold a half interest to W. P. Feder in 1904. In 1905 this firm bought the Beacon which was started by D. T. Armstrong in 1895. Stoke

sold his interest in the plant to Mr. Feder in 1906. Later Mr. Feder organized the Feder Printing Co., which has since owned and published the Barton County Democrat.

In January, 1910, the Morning News was started in Great Bend by the firm of Gunn & Wattson. This paper was consolidated with the Great Bend Tribune in September of the same year.

The newspapers now published in the county are the Great Bend Tribune, daily and weekly, by Townsley & Baker; the Hoisington Dispatch by Roy Cornelius, the Ellinwood Leader by John McMullin, Pawnee Rock Herald by Grant Lippincott and the Clafflin Clarion by Bert Fancher. All these papers except the Tribune are weekly publications.

## A FEW INCIDENTS

By Ira H. Clark

**I** MAY be pardoned for mention of an incident at Hoisington in the summer of 1895, which was largely of a personal interest to me. I mention this because it tells of the largest Republican township caucus ever held at Hoisington up to that time and the largest since with the single exception of the caucus held in 1904 about which I will have something to say later. This 1895 caucus was for the purpose of naming delegates to the county convention which was to place in nomination the county ticket. The writer was a



Ira H. Clark

candidate for the nomination of county clerk that year and it may be said that he had some good healthy political enemies in his own bailiwick as well as some mighty good and true friends. These enemies were determined to keep me from getting the delegation if possible and in that manner take me entirely out of the running, if the entire delegation could not be secured then it was the desire of these

people to divide it with me so that neither one of us would stand a ghost of a show when it came to the county convention. The man selected to defeat me for the delegation was Tommy Moore, a railroad shop man, who was popular with the numerous railroad men and at the same time was quite a lodge man. A stronger man locally for the purpose intended could hardly have been selected. He was practically unknown outside of a small territory but he was well known in Hoisington and generally liked. He would not have had a look-in for the nomination even had he secured a solid delegation from Homestead but the purpose of his backers to defeat me would have been accomplished. The attendance at this caucus was about 110 which was very near the voting strength of the party in the township at that time. The test came in the selection of a chairman and my supporters were successful, although by but a small majority. We pushed the fight on the issue of the two candidates for county clerk—my friends demanding that I either be given the entire delegation or none—with the result that a motion prevailed that I be permitted to select the delegates to the county convention. Right here I want to say that I did something that branded me as a novice in politics, something that my later years of experience taught me was a radical mistake. In politics never give back a concession that has been granted, take all you can get and grasp for more. Upon the granting of the usual privilege by the caucus there was a storm of protests from the opposition, chief among which was Col. Wash Sowards (now gone to his long rest) who loudly I speak literally—proclaimed that should I secure the nomination after having taken advantage of this unusual privilege he would spend every minute of the time from convention time until election tramping over



the county electioneering against my election. I did not at that time fully appreciate or realize the great favor the Colonel was voluntarily proffering me. I thought by conciliating with the opposition and allowing them a fair share of the delegates with instructions that they should support me unanimously for county clerk would make me stronger and bring about a better feeling. And this was the plan followed against the wish and protest of one of my valued supporters—Captain J. P. Francis—who knew politics from A to Z and who though never making a brilliant success himself had keen foresight and excellent judgment on matters of this kind. I found out later that I had made a mistake for it took all the time that I should have devoted to increasing my following outside in keeping my own delegation in line and preventing them from violating their instructions. This caucus will always be remembered by those in attendance as the most hotly contested of any held in Homestead township. This was the year that M. B. Fitts was first nominated for county clerk. The writer had the largest following of any individual candidate up to the next to the last ballot when he lacked five votes of a nomination. At this juncture practically all the delegates supporting George Gano of Pawnee Rock, were swung into line for Mr. Fitts.

In the spring of 1892 Hoisington had a very bitter city election. The town had been incorporated for a number of years but there had been no improvements made whatever and a number of the progressives were in favor of electing a city ticket that would mean some much needed sidewalk and street crossings. The moss-back element proclaimed loudly that the city would be thrown hopelessly in debt if this progressive ticket was successful, and this element succeeded in rallying to their aid a certain element in the churches that was made to believe that the progressive ticket was an extreme favorite with the whiskeyites. This was a favorite city election argument, by the way, for a number of years but it mattered not which ticket was successful in any of these years whiskey was sold freely in Hoisington at all times. This progressive ticket was headed by Capt. W. F. Peck and was successful at the polls. The sidewalks and crossings were put in and a great deal in the way of improvement accomplished. I was identified with the progressives and the morning after election six men filed up to my office, paid the subscription on their papers and ordered its discontinuance to their address. I did not enter into any argument with them or attempt to have them continue taking the paper but as courteously as I knew how took their money and gave them receipts. Some of my friends heard of the incident and before sundown they came in with thirty-seven new paid

in advance subscriptions to the paper, so I was not very much loser after all.

Speaking of persons stopping their subscription to a newspaper reminds me of an incident when Jerry Simpson was making his second campaign for congress. When Simpson made his first campaign of course I had more or less to say through my paper—the Dispatch—of a disparaging nature relative to Simpson and his fitness for the position he sought. When Simpson was making his second campaign his followers got up a monster demonstration at Hoisington, there was a great parade and the affair was about the biggest political event that ever happened in the county. There was an Irish lady living in Hoisington by the name of Grandma Johnson who had been a constant subscriber to the Dispatch and was a very good friend of the writer. She was, however, an ardent Democrat and a strong believer in the perfection of Jerry Simpson. A grandson was assisting in the Dispatch office on press day having the important position of roller by for the Washington press in use in the office. Immediately after the big Simpson political demonstration Grandma Johnson sent word by this boy to the editor that if he wrote up Simpson in as lying and contemptible manner as he had done two years before she was coming in and would stop her paper. Of course the Dispatch that week had a great deal to say about Simpson and the Caraway-Simpson episode that was pulled off on the occasion of that particular meeting, and in the editor's own weak way Simpson got his. The next morning after the paper was issued Grandma Johnson went to the postoffice and getting her copy of the paper examined it and found what she was looking for in reference to Simpson. She immediately ascended the stairs to the printing office and tearing the paper to shreds, threw the remnants at the face of the editor, placing the amount of her delinquency on the desk said, "There is your old paper, it's the damndest liest shate in the state, except the Great Bend Register." I was glad she made one exception in the case.

By way of explanation I will say that at that time the Register was in the hands of Morgan Caraway, who was chairman of the Republican congressional committee, and was about as virulent writer and hard a fighter as ever showed up in these parts. Grandma Johnson's temper did not last long and she was soon a valued subscriber to the Dispatch and the writer always counted on her and her family as among our best friends.

During the campaign of 1888 there were two papers published at Hoisington. The Echo, published by Chas. R. Vert, espoused the Republican cause, while the Mascot, published by Tom Sharghnessy upheld the Democratic banner. During the coursing meet, which at that time was the most noted annual meeting in the county, the two papers issued daily edi-

tions. Neither one of the editors were gifted with an over-abundance of editorial gray matter and as this was in the midst of a heated campaign in the nation, state and county, and the two papers were ultra partisan and it was necessary that each edition contain a number of good strong editorials calculated to inform the common voter as to his duty on election day. Neither editor was capable for the task, and be it said to their credit, they both realized this fact. It was therefore necessary to get someone to furnish this necessary copy. The Echo secured the services of Hugo Carlender, a Swedish gentleman who ran a harness shop and who was a rabid Republican who usually expressed himself in very forceful language. The Mascot secured the services of A. H. Baker who at that time, and is yet, a land agent at Hisington. Mr. Baker was a Missouri Democrat of the rock-ribbed variety and could go some when it came to telling his side of the political story. The editor of the Echo did not know that the Mascot had an assistant in the way of an editorial writer but thought the political stuff appearing in the Mascot was from the pen of the editor. The controversy in the two papers became personal to such an extent that they engaged in personal combat over the accusations, charges and counter charges that were daily appearing in the two papers. It is needless to say that the personal combat of the two editors was a source of much merriment to the two writers who were furnishing the ammunition for the fracas while they themselves were engaged in a bloodless warfare.

There is an interesting story connected with the first nomination of the late Senator G. L. Chapman that is not generally known. This story reveals how very close our present townsman, Joe Walters, then the candidate of Stafford county for the senatorial nomination, came to being the nominee of that convention, or I might better say how very easy it would have been for him to have secured the nomination had the delegates from his county had any idea of the intention of Mr. Chapman. A little history of the condition of things is necessary before going on with the real story. Senator Robert Findlay had been in the senate but one term and it was generally conceded that he was a one term man. He and General Chapman were very good friends at that time and before General would enter the race for the senatorship he had assurances from Bob Findlay that he would not be in his way but would assist in the nomination of Chapman. Assurances of support were also secured from other prominent Republicans of Rice county. Senator Findlay wanted to be let down as easily as possible, as it had been the custom to give an office holder two terms and the retirement of Senator Findlay at the expiration of his first term was a divergence from this usual custom. It was therefore agreed that in the selection of the delegates to

the senatorial convention from Rice county that these delegates should ostensibly be for Senator Findlay for a renomination, and then the program was that after a vote was taken and the Rice county delegation cast a vote for Senator Findlay—Senator Findlay was to come forward and after thanking his home county for their loyalty was to withdraw from the race. This was the thought of a number of the delegates from Rice county, but it seems that Bob was smooth enough to tie them up with some sort of an agreement by which they were to stay by him until he would personally release them from any allegiance to him. After he had secured the Rice county delegation and had this agreement Bob concluded that he would like to stick in the senate for another term and become a fullfledged and bonafide candidate for nomination.

Stafford county had not been getting hardly her share of district honors and therefore felt—and very justly too—that she was entitled to the nominee for senator. Findlay knew very well just how the Stafford county folks felt about this and there rested his hope for securing the nomination. While the Stafford county delegates personally felt much more friendly to Chapman than they did to Findlay their soreness for Barton county not coming to their aid might take on such a form as to cause them to go to Findlay before they would to Chapman through a feeling of revenge. This was Chapman's danger and it was right here that a plan was evolved whereby Findlay became an impossibility if the Stafford delegation would be alert and onto their job. By necessity this plan had to be kept very quiet and I may say there were only two persons besides General Chapman that knew of the plan. One prominent delegate on the Stafford county delegation was told to keep a very close watch on the proceedings and be ready to act quickly should anything transpire that needed quick action. Nothing more could be said, and although this delegate could not figure out just what the purport of this intelligence was it is needless to say that he paid mighty strict attention to the proceedings until a nomination was made. This convention was held at Ellinwood and was presided over by Sam Jones of Lyons. By a rule of procedure in conventions of this character when a vote is being taken on a nomination any delegation has a right to change its vote already cast provided the change is made before the vote is announced by the secretary. A large number of votes were being taken with little difference.

In the roll call of counties Barton always cast the first ballot. The plan was that should Stafford county get so sore at Barton as to prefer the nomination of Findlay to Chapman and the Rice county delegates persisted in their support of Findlay then the chairman of the Barton county delegation would immediately, before the announcement of the ballot, change the vote of Barton county to Walters

and then it would be up to the Stafford county chairman to quickly announce a change of vote from Findlay to Walters. Had the Stafford county folks had any idea of this intention they could easily have brought about the nomination of Walters.

One of the most prominent men in the early history of Hoisington was A. S. Cooke, who was the cashier of the first bank established in the town. Mr. Cooke was not one of the first men in the town but was one of the pushers when he did come. It was through him that the writer was first induced to locate in Hoisington in February, 1889. Mr. Cooke took an active part in all things of a public nature and

was a very social fellow. After retiring from the bank he became interested in the lumber business with the late Henry Wildgen. Soon after the hard years in the nineties he sold out his interests and went to Pittsburg to take charge of the Pennsylvania business of a Chicago electrical supply business. I am informed that he has prospered greatly in his new home and now has his country home, two automobiles and his city residence. While in this county he was active in Masonic circles but has since renounced all allegiance to secret orders and is now a devout and active worker in the Catholic church, his oldest daughter having taken the veil in that church.

## WILLIS W. WINSTEAD

THERE are few men who had more to do with the early history of Barton County, and especially that part of it that has to do with the City of Great Bend. He was the second sheriff of Barton County and filled the office of city marshal of Great



W. W. Winstead

Bend at a time when it required a man of strong nerve and a determined nature to deal with the vicious element that made up a part of the town's population. He was born in the

little town of Dukedom, Tenn., in 1844, and came to Barton County in 1873. He married Miss Georgia Stone, a daughter of T. L. Stone for whom Stone street was named. She, with her sister, were the first young ladies to arrive in Great Bend. Mr. and Mrs. Winstead were the parents of three children as follows: Will W., who died when he was 24 years of age; George M., who for some time was in the jewelry business in Great Bend, but about a year ago moved to Hutchinson and established one of the largest and most complete stocked jewelry stores in this part of the country; Thomas E., who is proprietor of the Duncan Bottling Works in Great Bend. Mrs. Winstead's father ran the old Southern hotel which, when it was first built, was known as the Drovers Cottage, and was the first building on the townsite of Great Bend. At this time Mrs. Winstead was 15 years of age and her two sisters, who are now Mrs. Honnen and Mrs. Crath, were 5 and 13, respectively. Mr. Winstead was deputy marshal for some time and in all his public duties proved himself a man whose nerve enabled him to deal with delicate conditions with forethought and determination. He had to deal with some mighty tough characters during his terms as marshal and sheriff but the evil-doers learned that Mr. Winstead was a man who placed his duty above everything else. He was a kind and considerate father and his death, which occurred a few years ago, caused a great deal of sorrow among his relatives and friends who knew him for a man in every sense of the word.

## JOHN EVERS

THE improvements just completed at "Wheat Valley Farm," the home of John Evers, 12 miles west of Great Bend has made such a change in its appearance that one hardly recognizes it as the same place, although the land is just as rich and

the same care has been given to the cultivation of the crops. A large two story frame, containing ten rooms and a kitchen, has taken the place of the former residence, and it will stand as a monument to the skill of Mr. Evers as a carpenter for many long years, as



he has been both its architect and builder. That it is well built, and that the lumber of its construction is first class is an admitted fact, because Mr. Evers served an apprenticeship at the builders' trade in the Old Country before coming to America, and then worked as a journeyman carpenter for a number of years. Since coming to Kansas he has worked at his trade while farming, and has kept in touch with the improved methods in vogue in this country. He therefore felt that he was competent for this task and the building stands to prove that he made a just estimate of his ability. The barn, sheds and other outbuildings are in keeping with the home and care for the grain and stock of the farm. There is an abundance of shade and the whole presents a beautiful appearance.

John Evers was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, on May 11th, 1857. He worked on the farm and at his trade until March 5th, 1882, when he came to America and first settled in Nebraska City, Nebraska. There he again farmed and worked at his trade, but in May, 1893, came to Barton County, Kansas, and purchased the one hundred and sixty acres where he resides. He also owns a half section in Pawnee County which is farmed by his son John Herman Evers. He was married in June, 1884, to Miss Johanna Ekhoft, of Germany, and thirteen children have blessed them: all of whom remain at home and assist the parents except John Herman, who is married and lives on the farm in Pawnee County.

### AMEND BROS, DENTISTS

**I**N writing the different articles for the history of Barton County and Great Bend, there is none that is more a story of success and enterprise than this one, which recounts the building up an establishment of which the people of Great Bend and Barton County, as well as those of surrounding counties, are justly proud. This establishment is known as the Amend Brothers Dental Parlors which are located over 1417 1-2 Main street. Those who visit the parlors for the first time, after having become accustomed to

Brothers consists of Walter A., Eldon R., and Leslie L. These young men are sons of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Amend, who were early settlers in the eastern part of Kansas, having come to this state from the state of Missouri.

Mrs. Amend was left a widow twenty-two years ago and it is largely due to her guidance and pride in her boys that they have made a success in their work.

Walter was born in Brown County, Kansas, in 1884, and when he arrived in Great Bend in 1901, he accepted a position in the



Amend Bros., Sanitary Dentists

the ordinary dentists' office, are compelled to exclaim, "Wonderful!" And it is wonderful when it is taken into consideration that without any attempt at flattery, or stretching the imagination it can be truthfully said that nowhere in the state of Kansas nor in Kansas City or St. Louis, can there be found a dental parlor that will excel the Amend Brothers establishment when it comes to completeness of equipment, sanitary methods or general beauty and convenience. The firm of Amend

dental office of A. D. Raffington. In 1905 he graduated from the Western Dental College of Kansas City, Mo., and shortly after he had received his diploma he opened the business that has since grown to its present importance. In 1907 Eldon R. Amend received his diploma from the same college and joined his brother, Walter, in the parlors in this city. Eldon was born in Iowa, in 1877. Leslie L. became a member of the firm in the spring of 1912. He graduated from the same college where the



other members of the firm studied and mastered their profession. Leslie was born in Missouri, in 1882, and received his diploma from the above mentioned college in 1906, and before coming to Great Bend practiced at Sterling, Kansas. Associated with the Amend Brothers in their business are: Dr. Fred C. Pressl and Dr. Roy R. Johnson, both of whom are well fitted to maintain the reputation of the parlors. In addition to enjoying an extensive local practice representatives of this firm make frequent and regular trips to towns surrounding Great Bend and Barton County

everything known to the modern practice of dentistry. The furniture is of mahogany, while the walls are finished in pure white with green trimmings. Three operating booths are equipped with the finest instruments which are kept clean and sanitary by the most advanced methods. The instruments used at the parlors are of the modern kind, many of them being operated by electricity and they are the kind that reduces pain to a minimum and makes operations that were formerly painful almost devoid of any unpleasant sensation. Every appliance that will



where the Amend Brothers' quality of dental work is well known and appreciated. These towns are located on the Santa Fe railroad as far west as Garden City and as far east as Geneseo on the Missouri Pacific and to Ness City on the latter road, and as far south as Pratt. Within this radius there are forty towns which are regularly visited and where this firm's practice is steadily growing as a result of modern methods and painstaking, careful attention. The Amend Brothers Dental Parlors in Great Bend are furnished with

in any way add to the up-to-dateness of the parlors have been supplied by the firm regardless of expense and time. It is indeed fortunate for the people of this section of Kansas to have an establishment of this kind in Great Bend, because when they seek treatment at this modern institution they can do so with the knowledge that no matter how far one may travel or to whatever city they might go better treatment cannot be found nor can one have higher class work done at more reasonable prices.

### L. G. MECKLEM

THERE are very few old timers of this county who do not know the Mecklem family, as it is one of the families that arrived here in 1870. The subject of this sketch, L. G. Mecklem, is a son of G. F. Mecklem, who it will be remembered was killed in a cyclone in 1900. He with his family came to this county in the fall of 1870 and he located on the northeast quarter of section 5, Buffalo township, while L. G. later homesteaded the northwest quarter of the same section. L. G. now owns 400 acres of land all in Buffalo township, except 80 acres, which is in Eureka township. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and came to this county with his parents. He was married to Miss Rheta Wilkins and to this union there were born two children, Ira, 32 years of age, and

Jennie, 30 years of age. The former is a wheat buyer located at Heizer and Jennie is now Mrs. Henry Boyle, and resides on Blood creek, in this county. Mr. Mecklem survived his first wife and in 1886 was married to Miss Clara Baldwin in this county. They are the parents of three children as follows: Mollie, 21 years of age, is now Mrs. Walter Wallerstedt of Lyonsburg, Kansas; Marie, 17 years, and Bess, 11 years of age, are residing at home. The home place is beautifully located on the south bank of Walnut creek. The residence which contains eight rooms, in addition to closets, pantries, etc., is surrounded by shade trees and shrubbery. The barn is 32 feet square and the other outbuildings are well built and commodious. Altogether Mr. Mecklem has one of the best improved and

most attractive home places to be found in that township. He maintains a small orchard and a good grade of live stock and is one of the best known farmers in that section of Barton. He has held township and school board offices and always takes an active part in any movement that he thinks is for the

benefit of the community in which he lives. One thing of interest about Mr. Mocklen should be mentioned. He is the author of the famous Heizer Yacht Club notes that have been running in the Tribune for the last three or four years.

## JAKE MILLER

**T**HE pioneer photographer of Great Bend is Jake Miller who still operates a studio on Broadway a few doors east of the federal building. Mr. Miller was born in Adams County, Pennsylvania, June 16, 1848. He came to Great Bend in 1872 and soon after his arrival opened a photograph gallery and nearly all the well known old timers have posed before Mr. Miller's camera. Many of the illustrations of the old time scenes and people in this book are cuts made from photos furnished by Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller helped to set the type from which the first newspaper in Great Bend was printed. He was married in 1878 to Miss Carrie E. Rankin and they are the parents of two children: Leon, who is now a telegraph operator employed by the Associated Press at St. Joseph, Mo., and Anna, who is now Mrs. David Gordon of this county. Mr. Miller was well acquainted with the old timers and pioneers of this section of the state and knows a great deal about the early history of Barton County, as he is one of the men who helped to make it.



Early Picture of First Photographer, Jacob Miller

## JOSEPH H. TROILLET

**J**OSEPH H. TROILLET was born December 21, 1843, at Bagnes Valais, Switzerland, of French parents. He was married in March, 1881, to Miss Anna Bobeck and they were the parents of three girls: Lillian Elsa and Alma. Mr. Troillet arrived in Barton County in 1873 and was, therefore, among the pioneers of this section of Kansas. His first business venture was a tailor shop which he and his brother, Francis Troillet, opened. This partnership continued for some time after which Mr. Troillet opened a French restaurant which he conducted until 1887, when he established a cigar factory and confectionary store on Forest avenue, opposite the post-office, in a building which he erected in 1876. Mr. Troillet was always known as an enterprising, progressive citizen and always took a part in any movement that had for its purpose the betterment of the community in which he lived. The confectionery store is now being run by his daughters and there are few if any of the old timers who will not remember Mr. Troillet and the part he took in the upbuilding of Great Bend and Barton

County. Mr. Troillet was one of the original organizers and directors of the Citizens National bank and was also one of the largest stockholders. Mr. Troillet's death, which occurred on February 24, 1911, was a great shock to the community and he was sincerely mourned, not only by his relatives, but by scores of friends in all parts of the state of Kansas. Mr. Troillet survived his wife who died August 10, 1908. The Troillet girls, Lillian, Alma and Elsa are well fitted to look after the different business interests left by their parents. Lillian was married in July, 1912, to Ernest Frey. The girls are among the best known in the younger society set of the county, all of them being accomplished musicians, Lillian being a singer of exceptional ability. Mr. Troillet was one of the best known pioneer business men of Great Bend and before his death had the satisfaction of seeing the town and county reach a place of importance which was made possible by the early struggles of the pioneers of whom he was one.

## W. H. KERR

**W**ILLIAM HENRY KERR was born at Toulon, Illinois, January 20, 1855. He went with his parents to Missouri when he was about one year of age and it was in the latter state that he was raised and received his early education. Mr. Kerr came

over but was included in another township. Mr. Kerr was married August 30, 1881, to Miss Florence P. Lindsay of Bunker Hill, Kansas, and they are the parents of eight children, six of whom are living. One of the children died in infancy and Albert was killed by lightning



City Residence of W. H. Kerr



Farm Residence of W. H. Kerr

to Kansas from Missouri in 1876 and located in Barton County. He first took up a tree claim and pre-emption in Beaver township, the former being changed to a homestead. At this time there was but one family in that township which was not then known as Bea-

June 29, 1900, when he was 12 years of age. The remainder of the children are: Mary Belle, who is now Mrs. Clarence Markel; Winifred, who is employed by the Merritt-Schwier Creamery as stenographer; Ethel Florence, who is a stenographer and is em-



ployed by C. B. Ellis & Co., brokers, of San Francisco; Robert Henry, who is employed in Great Bend, and Josephine and Alice, who are living at home. Mr. Kerr has always taken a great interest in his children and they are all well educated and well known in this part of the state. Mr. Kerr now owns 720 acres of farm land in Barton County, all of which is being worked by renters. He also owns con-

Life," which spreads the propaganda of the society to all parts of the civilized world. He is also the president of the society and devotes a great deal of his time to study and in the preparation of copy for the magazine. Some time ago he purchased the Morrison hotel building which is one of the largest in the city of Great Bend, and it is his intention to found a school in the building to prepare stu-



Great Bend Hotel, Owned by W. H. Kerr

siderable town property in Great Bend and 139 acres of land in Texas. Mr. Kerr is the founder of the Church of Humanity, a society that is gaining many new members in all parts of the world. The membership roll contains representatives from forty states in this country as well as in Germany and England. Mr. Kerr is the publisher and editor of the monthly magazine called "The Truth About God and

dents for taking up the work of spreading the beliefs of the society. Mr. Kerr is an enterprising and progressive citizen and is one of the really old timers of Barton County who have remained here through good and bad years and established a home and raised a family that is a credit to him and the community in which he lives.

### JACOB A. DIRKS

**T**HE general appearance of "North Slope Farm," the name recently given to the home of Jacob A. Dirks, thirteen and one-half miles west of Great Bend, has been greatly changed by the erection of a two story frame residence containing ten large airy rooms, and all other conveniences and accessories usually found in a modern up-to-date home. This building stands on an elevated position and well above ground, and seems to tower above its surroundings. It is enclosed by porches, north and south, and the sleeping apartments face in those directions. Ventilation and comfort have been the chief aims in its construction, and Mr. and Mrs.

Dirks can congratulate themselves that they have secured these blessings. It is furnished in the most modern style, and will take rank with the best homes in the county. There is a good barn with mow and stall room for all hay and stock necessary on the farm, and a granary and other outbuildings. New trees, plants and shrubs will be set, and these will blend with the tastefully painted buildings and brighten the scene.

Jacob A. Dirks was born in Newton, Kansas, on April 8th, 1877, and attended the district schools of Barton County. He is the oldest son of Abraham H. and Nettie Dirks, and grew to manhood on the homestead one-



half mile west of his present home. He is one of the progressive farmers of the county, and his two hundred and forty acres of tillable land show that he is a model husbandman. His farm covers one hundred and sixty acres, and he owns an additional eighty, two miles west in Rush county. These two tracts are

cultivated by him personally, and his fields and granaries both show that he understands his business. On December 5th, 1900, Jacob A. Dirks and Miss Carrie Ratzlaff, of Harvey County, Kansas, were united in marriage, and four children bless them: Chester, 9; Harvey, 8; Daniel, 6, and Mae Leona, 2.

## BENJAMIN H. UNRUH

**H**ILLSIDE FARM," the country home of Benjamin H. Unruh, stands on a gently sloping hillside thirteen miles west of Great Bend. The farm embraces three hundred and twenty acres of beautiful lying land, and the soil is very fertile. Mr. Unruh also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Pawnee County, and both tracts are in a high state of cultivation. The "Hill-

Benjamin H. Unruh was born in Central Russia on September 5th, 1864, and came to America with his parents, Hein and Katherine Unruh, when ten years of age. They arrived in Newton, Kansas, on December 24th, 1874, and little Benny spent his tenth Christmas in the new world. They finally settled at Pawnee Rock, but eventually entered a homestead three miles south of the farm here described.



"Hillside Farm"

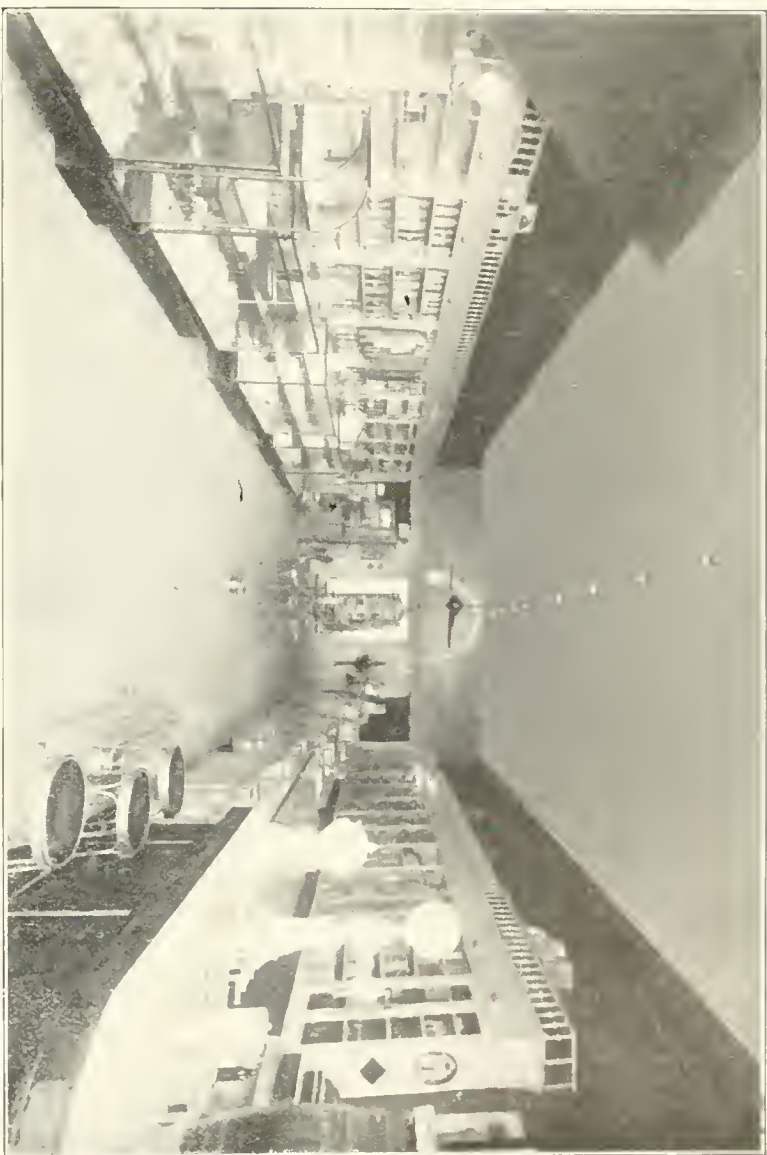
side Farm" is improved with a one story and a half frame containing nine rooms, and is furnished modernly. The barn is 32x60 and has stalls for fifteen horses and ten cows. There is a granary, model milk house, and other outbuildings, and some metal grain bins scattered about. The house is painted gray, the barn red, and these shades harmonize well with the green of the orchard leaves and the shade trees about the premises.

The father died in November, 1884, but the mother still resides on the homestead. Benjamin H. attended the public schools of his district and assisted his father and mother on the farm, and entered and proved up on a claim of a quarter section. On April 14th, 1899, he married Miss Anna Smith, of Harvey County, Kansas. They have five living children: Alvin, 10; Ruth, 8; Augusta, 6; Paul, 4, and Freida, 3.

## CLARENCE E. HOLMES

**C**LARENCE E. HOLMES was born April 2, 1882, at Fredonia, Wilson County, Kansas, and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Holmes, who came to the Sunflower state from Iowa in 1877. Clarence lived in his native county for six years after which he

went to Elk County with his parents. From there he went to Butler County and resided in the town of Douglas until 1908, during which year he came to Barton County and engaged in the drug business in Great Bend. The elder Holmes followed the business of



Holmes Drug Store

farming and cabinet making. After 1880, and previous to this date was in the drug business for thirty years. Clarence was educated in the grammar and high schools of the different counties in which he lived and in 1907 graduated from the pharmaceutical department of the Kansas university at Lawrence. Soon after graduation he successfully passed the examination and fulfilled the other requirements of the state board of pharmacy and is now a registered pharmacist. When Clarence was a boy he took a great interest in outdoor sports and became proficient as a baseball pitcher and after playing in amateur teams for some time, in 1903 he signed a contract and pitched professional ball for the Cedar Rapids club of the "Three I." league. He made an excellent record as a left handed twirler and quit the game only because he wanted to go into business for

himself. He still takes a great interest in the national game and his store is headquarters for sporting goods and is popular with everybody who is in any way interested in sports.

Mr. Holmes was married in 1907 to Miss Daisy Hollenbeck of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and they are the parents of one child, a boy two years of age who bears his father's name and is known as Clarence Holmes, Jr. Mr. Holmes is one of the best known business men of Barton County and his store is a standard for all goods in the drug line. During the hot months the soda fountain maintained at the Holmes store is the mecca for those who want the best in the soft drink line. The prescription department is always in charge of Mr. Holmes or another registered pharmacist and this department is maintained on the highest standard.

## JOHN F. LEWIS

THE history of Barton County, Kansas, would not be entirely complete without a short biography of John F. Lewis, who came here in 1873, when there was but a single row of houses around the square, and the cowboy element dominated the town.

Mr. Lewis was born in Holmes County, Ohio, August 9, 1842, wherefrom his family moved to DeWitt County, Illinois, in 1844, where he grew to manhood and in July, 1862, enlisted in Company G, 107th Infantry, Illinois Volunteers for service in the civil war. His father, Dr. B. S. Lewis, having recruited said company and was elected its captain and he, John F. Lewis, was made duty sergeant, afterwards promoted to first sergeant and again to second lieutenant. Mr. Lewis served with his regiment in the Kentucky, East Tennessee, under General Burnside's in its battles and sieges, thence in 1864 with Sherman in his march upon Atlanta, then in the campaign when Hood marched upon Nashville and the battles of Columbia, Duck River, Franklin and Nashville was fought, thence going with his corps to Fort Fisher, thence on up the coast in various engagements to the close of the war, in the capture of Johnson's army.

Soon after the close of the war Mr. Lewis was commissioned lieutenant in the Fourteenth regular infantry and was stationed on Governors Island, New York harbor, during the following summer, where he passed through the cholera epidemic and suffered an attack of that dread disease.

He joined his regiment in the spring of 1867, via the Isthmus of Panama and San Francisco and across the Yuma desert to Arizona. Very soon after reaching his command he was ordered on an expedition against the Apache Indians in command of Troop G, First U. S. cavalry, in the Chiricahua mountains, and encountered the Indians in force in the Guadalupe canon near the present town of

Douglas, Arizona, and went into action, capturing their stock, defeating them and killing a large number.

He was engaged in battle with the Indians on many other occasions, one of which was notable, that of being surrounded and besieged two days and nights in a mining corral, from which he successfully extricated his command with the captured stock, though he was constantly engaged until reinforcements arrived.

Mr. Lewis was promoted to first lieutenant of the Thirty-second infantry, and was afterwards transferred to the Twenty-first, became quartermaster at Camp Crittenden, at which post he constructed the post buildings the remains of which can be seen by any person traveling into Mexico over the Guaymas branch of the Santa Fe railroad. In 1871 Mr. Lewis enjoyed the opportunity offered by the government of accepting a year's pay upon the reduction of the army from forty-five to twenty-five regiments, arriving home in July, 1871, thus giving the government nearly four years of continuous Indian service.

Mr. Lewis married Miss Frances M. Morton, at Corning, Adams County, Iowa, September 13, 1873, and immediately came to Kansas, locating a homestead and tree claim four miles north of Ellinwood, Kan.

During his stay on said land the movement of large herds of cattle from Texas northward gave great annoyance to the farmers in the destruction of crops. Mr. Lewis organized the farmers and made physical resistance to said encroachments to the end that said damages to crops ceased and resulted in the people of the county bringing out Mr. Lewis as a candidate for sheriff. However, the political trickery no less common those days than now, thwarted the wishes of the people and he was defeated.

Mr. Lewis has until late years ever inter-

ested himself in the public uplift of our town and county, pushing with enterprise and unselfishness any improvement that promised benefits to our town.

He organized the Great Bend Gas and Fuel Company and was instrumental more than any other citizen in sinking a deep well on section 13-19-13 in an effort to develop coal, gas or oil, reaching a depth of 1,365 feet, finding only salty artesian water that is still flowing out of the ground, and which is said to possess valuable medicinal properties. Soon after this he brought about a vote of \$10,000 bonds in the city for the erection of a salt plant. However, the land boom, then at its

apex, commenced to wane and promised monies from other sources failed to come and the venture came to nothing.

Mr. Lewis also organized by his energy the Great Bend Foundry Company, which constructed its buildings immediately south of the present grain office of the Walnut Creek Milling Company, which burned to the ground a few years ago.

Mr. Lewis occupies the office he then occupied twenty-six years ago, being a quiet and conservative real estate business, where he yet cheerfully caters to the occasional demand for information and events of the long, long ago in the early history of Kansas.

### ELRICK C. COLE

**E**LRICK C. COLE was born in Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin, October 31, 1856. He moved with his parents in 1863 to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he received a common school education, finishing the high school course. He studied law in the office



Judge E. C. Cole

of his father, Albert G. Cole. He was clerk of the circuit court of that county, and was admitted to the bar in December, 1878, and to the supreme court of Wisconsin in February, 1879. He moved to Great Bend, Kansas, in March, 1879, where he began the practice of

law with his brother, Theodore C. Cole, under the firm name of Cole Brothers. He is the dean of the Barton County bar and one of the most prominent lawyers in Kansas. The firm was dissolved by the death of his brother in October, 1890. He was elected county attorney of Barton County in 1886 and re-elected in 1888. He was elected a member of the legislature in 1894 and resigned in March 1895, after the close of the session to accept the appointment of judge of the Kansas court of appeals, which place he held until January, 1897, when he returned to the practice of law in Great Bend. On January 1, 1900, he formed a partnership with Wm. Osmond, which still continues. He was married November 23, 1880, to Miss Minnie O. Webb of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and they are the parents of one child, Frances, who is now Mrs. Eldon J. Lowe of Coffeyville, Kansas. He is a prominent member of the Masonic order and this year is deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, and deputy grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas. Judge Cole has gone through many of the hottest political campaigns in the state during the past thirty years, and when he took an active part in the campaign his friends were glad and the enemy knew they were going to have a battle. On different occasions Mr. Cole overcame difficulties in winning an election that seemed almost impossible. He has been connected with some of the largest legal battles in the state and has always been found to be a hard working, conscientious attorney and counselor. He served the city of Great Bend as attorney a number of times and is one of Great Bend's substantial and enterprising citizens.

### O. W. DAWSON

**T**HE MOST important office in the city administration is now held by O. W. Dawson, who is serving his second term as the city's chief executive. Mr. Dawson was born in the state of Iowa in 1868 and came to Kansas with his parents in 1876. After com-

pleting his education he taught school for several years and was later connected with the Walnut Creek Milling Company in capacity of bookkeeper. For a number of years he was court reporter of the Twentieth judicial district and about ten years ago formed a part-



nership with Louis Zutavern in the real estate, loan and insurance business and they now have one of the leading offices in these lines in this part of the state. Under Mr.

and up-to-date cities in the state of Kansas. Mr. Dawson has proved himself a faithful and efficient public servant and he is untiring in his efforts to discharge the duties of his office



O. W. Dawson, Mayor of Great Bend

Dawson's administration the city of Great Bend has made long strides forward until today it is counted one of the most progressive

in a way that will reflect credit not only upon himself but upon the city as a whole. Mr. Dawson's office is located in the Citizen' National

Bank block at the corner of Forest avenue and Main street.

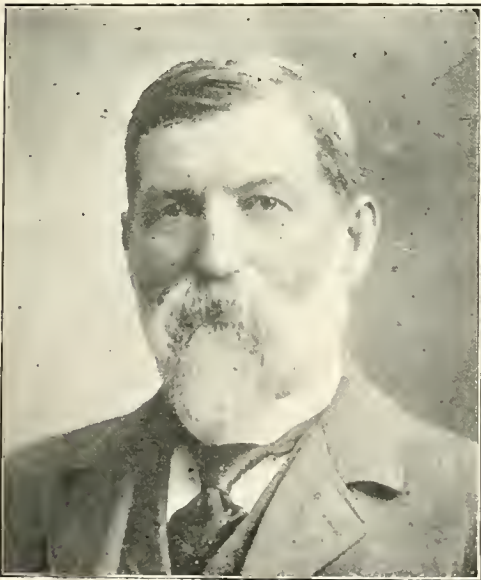
Mr. Dawson at this writing is a candidate for the office of congressman from the Seventh congressional district on the Republican ticket. He is of the type of men who makes

friends wherever he may go and if he is chosen to represent this district at the national capital the people can rest assured that their interests will be looked after as they should be.

### THE BRINKMAN FAMILY

**I**N THE MEMORY of the old timers of Barton County and Great Bend there are few men who are occupying as prominent a place as John V. Brinkman, the head of the Brinkman family which came to Barton from Ohio in 1874 at a time when this section of Kansas needed just such men as John Brinkman and his sons have proven to be. John V. Brinkman was born in January, 1841, near Bolivar, Ohio, on a farm. He was married November 19, 1863, to Miss Susan Liebold of that state and they were the parents of nine children as follows: Nora, Katie J., George, Charles V., Lillian, Ola, Mabel, Eloise and Louis. Mrs. Brinkman was born in Ohio in

when aid was hard to obtain. From the very beginning his business was a success and when he died after having lived a noble life the people of Barton County mourned as they have seldom mourned the loss of a man. The bank which he established has grown until now it has a capital of \$50,000, with deposits approximating half a million dollars. The officers of the bank are now: J. George Brinkman, president; Charles V. Brinkman, vice president, Frank Brinkman, cashier, and W. O. Vollmer, assistant cashier, and the same policies followed by the elder Brinkman are being carried out by the sons to the end that it will always stand as a material evidence of



J. V. Brinkman



Mrs. J. V. Brinkman

1842 and died April 23, 1908, she having survived her husband by three years, he having passed away June 27, 1905. In 1874, the year following Mr. Brinkman's arrival in this county, he organized the J. V. Brinkman & Co., bankers, private banking establishment with a capital of \$10,000. It was while he was actively engaged in this business that he endeared himself to the people of this section of the state. He was a man who took a deep interest in the welfare of his neighbors and the upbuilding of the community in which he lived. Many are the incidents known to his friends of which he would never speak regarding his charitable acts, and the aid he rendered those who were in need at a time

the business sagacity of its founder.

In 1877 Mr. Brinkman, together with E. C. Sooy, built a flour mill in the county on the banks of Walnut Creek east of Great Bend. It was the intention to utilize the water power furnished by Walnut creek, but it was learned within a year that just at the times when the power was needed there was not sufficient water in the creek to furnish the necessary power, and in 1878 the mill was moved to its present site, just south of the Santa Fe tracks on Main street in Great Bend. The mill as originally built was known as Three-Run French Burr with a capacity of 100 barrels per day. When the mill was erected on its present site, Dave Roberts was taken in as a

partner and was head miller until 1886, when the company was incorporated under the name of the Walnut Creek Milling Company, with the following officers: J. V. Brinkman, president; E. C. Sooy, vice president; Dave Roberts, general manager. It was in 1886 that Nicholas Smith became identified with the company and after the death of J. V. Brinkman in 1905, Charles V. Brinkman became president and Nicholas Smith was made secretary and manager. Dave Roberts severed his connection with the mill in 1887 and now lives at Grand Junction, Colorado, where he is engaged in the milling business. The mill



Charles V. Brinkman

property consists of a square block of ground and the milling building is 80x180 feet in dimensions and is equipped with the latest and most improved milling machinery. Its main product, "Imperial" flour, is shipped to all parts of the country and is one of the chief reasons why Great Bend is called the Milling City, and this flour's quality maintains the city's reputation as a producer of all that is best in the line of flour quality. Charles V. Brinkman, the head of this milling business founded by his father, was born in Bolivar, Ohio, July 6, 1869, and came to Barton County with his parents in 1874. He attended the public schools of this section and also took a course at Washburn college of Topeka. Before

going into the milling business he was connected with the J. V. Brinkman bank for four years. J. George Brinkman, who is president of the J. V. Brinkman Co., bankers, was born at Sandyville, Ohio, June 21, 1867. He was married November 8, 1894, to Miss Pauline Wilner of Kansas City, Kansas, and they are the parents of two children, Marion and John V. Nora is now Mrs. Fred Zutavern of Great Bend; Katie is now Mrs. Nicholas Smith, also of Great Bend; Ola is now Mrs. G. L. Chapman and resides in Great Bend; Eloise is now Mrs. N. A. White of Fremont, Michigan, while Lillian and Louis are residents of Great Bend,



Louis Brinkman

the latter being connected with the Walnut Creek Milling Company. Many who read this brief synopsis of the Brinkman family will recall the many kind deeds of John V. Brinkman and remember him as one of the men who made possible the development of Barton County's resources, and as a man who at all times found time to listen to the words of woe from less fortunate people who came to the new country without means to see them through the periods of hard times. He was a man whose friends were numbered by his acquaintances and he died happy in the thought that his life had not been a failure and knowing that he was leaving behind him a heritage of which any family might be proud.

## HEIZER

WHEN work was begun on the railroad track now known as the Scott City branch of the A. T. & S. F. railroad, a demand was made for some smaller towns along the right-of-way northwest of the coun-

ty seat in this county. This was in the 50s and Heizer is one of the towns established as a result of this demand. It was named after D. N. Heizer, a former resident of the county, and at one time owner of the land that is



now taken up by the townsite of Heizer. The first store in the town was established by D. E. Freyberger, who later sold out to Reinicke & Sons. A creamery was established in the

pose for some time was torn down and the material taken to Great Bend where it was reused. Heizer now has three elevators, two general merchandise stores, one hardware



Heizer Creamery

town of Heizer by Schwier and associates shortly after the town was laid out. This was operated for a few years, but in 1909 the building which had not been used for any pur-

pose for some time was torn down and the material taken to Great Bend where it was reused. Heizer now has three elevators, two general merchandise stores, one hardware

## ALBERT

**I**T WAS back in the early 80s when C. B. Worden and other residents of his town-ship realized the necessity for a town where they located Albert, which is on the Scott City branch of the Santa Fe railway, seventeen miles northwest of Great Bend. Albert, like other towns in that section of the county, never had a boom, but within a short time after it was laid out it served the pur-

pose for which it was intended and offered the people of that section of the county a trading point and it was not long until nearly all lines of retail business were represented. The first store was started by Charles Hayes who later sold out. Albert now has a bank, four elevators, hotel, livery and feed stable, two general merchandise stores and a population of about 170. It was near the townsite

## OLMITZ

**O**LMITZ was laid out and began its growth in 1885 and is the trading point for an Austrian settlement that surrounds it. When Peter Brack and his brothers and mother came to this section of the state they were accompanied by a number of natives of Austria and for several years after their arrival it was only by the greatest economy and by dint of hard work that they succeeded in bringing the soil in that section to a state of productiveness that would yield them a profit for their efforts. Olmitz is lo-

cated on the Missouri Pacific railroad, 10 miles west of Hoisington. It has at the present time three general stores, three elevators, a bank, hotel, hardware stores, and establishments that represent other lines of business. The first store was started by Peter Brack, who later sold out and within a few years started the bank that bears his name. C. M. Kreiser established a store in 1885 and later sold out to Sig Jacoby, who is still in business. Olmitz has some nice residences and enjoys the trade from a large territory.



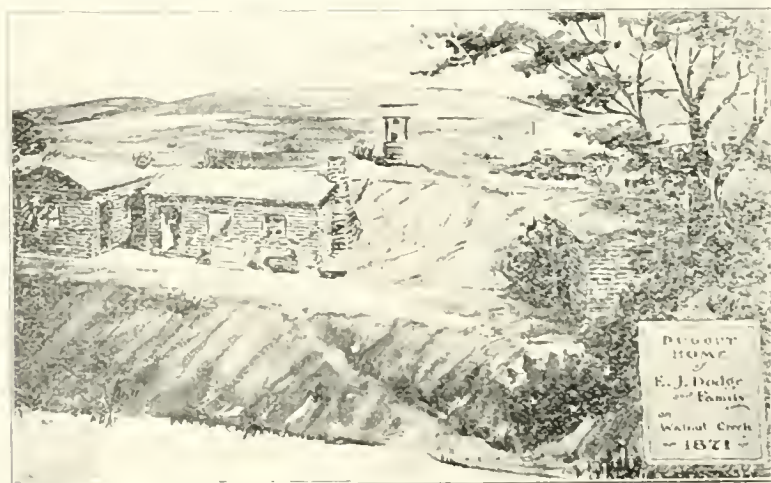
of Albert that C. B. Worden and Mr. Pondesh planted the first crop of corn which, after making a good start, was eaten by the buffaloes that were so plentiful in this sec-

tion of the county at that time. Albert is a supply point for a rich territory which takes in some of the richest agricultural land in Barton County.

## THE DODGE FAMILY

**I**N THE history of Barton County there is no family that has taken a more active part in its making than that of Edward Judson Dodge. He was born at Breedshill, near Hannibal, in Oswego County, New York, November 25, 1822. He came with his parents to Kenosha, Wisconsin, in 1836. Here he went to school and lived his boyhood years. It was in Kenosha that he met Miss Elizabeth Possen whom he married December 31, 1846. They were the parents of eight children as follows: Charles E., Wallace H., Don D., Gus B., Lizzie, Jennie, Mary and Maggie. In 1871 the call of the west became too strong for Mr. Dodge to withstand and he came to Barton County, Kansas, in that year and at once took an active part in the development of the county's resources. He located on a home-

sides in this county. The Dodge family always took an active part in the public affairs of the county and Charles E. was register of deeds for seven terms, administering the affairs of this office for fourteen years. At the end of his seventh term he gave up politics and since that time has been engaged in the abstract business. He has also served on the school board a number of years and upon his arrival in this country he first followed the occupation of school teacher. Wallace Dodge is one of the best known real estate men in this section of the state and has offices in Great Bend. Don also lives in Great Bend and is a retired farmer; Giles is a painter and paperhanger and is actively engaged in this line of work in Barton County; Jennie is now Mrs. Ingersoll of Claffin; Mary is now



Dugout Home of E. J. Dodge

stead about four miles north of Great Bend where he built an abode that consisted of a dugout on the bank of Walnut creek. Here the family resided for a number of years and were among the best known and most highly respected of the early settlers of this part of the state. Mr. Dodge came here alone but was joined by his family after he had secured a location and made arrangements for the making of a home. He farmed for a number of years and, finally retired and moved to Great Bend where he took up his residence. Mr. Dodge was a blacksmith by trade and followed this line of business until a short time before his death which occurred October 10, 1910, after he had reached the age of 87 years, 10 months and 27 days. Mr. Dodge's first wife died November 1, 1889. In June he was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Wells, who still re-

Mrs. W. P. Feder, her husband being the editor of the Barton County Democrat; Lizzie is now Mrs. George Spencer of Great Bend and Maggie is now Mrs. Jones of Hollywood, Calif. The head of the Dodge family came to this county when the buffaloes were still roaming the prairies in this part of the country and he enjoyed the distinction of having built the first bridge to span Walnut creek north of the town of Great Bend. We print herewith a picture of the Dodge home on Walnut creek and from this picture one can get an idea of how the people lived in those days and see the conditions with which the early settlers had to contend. Mr. Dodge's death came as a great shock to the community where he had scores of friends which were made and kept by his kindness and many manly qualities.

## ALBERT NICHOLAS MERTEN

**A**LBERT NICHOLAS MERTEN was born in Keokuk County, Iowa, May 4, 1864, and came to Barton County with his parents when he was twelve years of age. He is a son of Robert Merten, one of the early settlers in this part of the State of Kansas. The family came to this county in 1876 and since that time have had much to do with the development of the county's resources and

trees and other foliage which makes it one of the most attractive farm homes in that part of the county. The residence contains ten rooms in addition to the bath, closets and pantries. The barn is well built and contains room for a number of head of live stock. Mr. Merten maintains a good grade of live stock and is an enterprising and progressive farmer. He is one of the many Barton County farmers



Home of Albert N. Merten

the upbuilding of the towns and cities contained within its borders. Mr. Merten was married to Miss Ida A. Coss, October 30, 1895 and they are the parents of four children: Bessie, 16 years; Elsie, 14 years; Maisie, 12 years; Grace, 3 years. Mr. Merten farms three quarter sections in Clarence township and in addition owns another half section in the same township and a quarter in Rush county all of which is being worked by renters. The home place is nicely located, the residence and other buildings being surrounded by shade

who took up the work where their parents left off in the developing of the soil and maintaining this county's prestige as one of the most important agricultural sections of the country. Mr. Merten in addition to his private interests has found time to take an active part in the public affairs of his community and has served in the capacity of school board director and has held township offices. He has been actively engaged in farming in this county twenty-seven years and is one of the best known men in this part of the state.

## JACOB B. and PETER C. BRACK

**A**NOTHER prosperous farmer who was born in this county and has seen it grow from a most undesirable place in which to live to one of the best counties in the State of Kansas, is Jacob B. Brack. He was born March 6, 1883 and attended the schools of the county until he began farming for himself. He is the son of Henry U. Brack one of the really old timers of the county. His father was born in Russia and came to Barton County in 1876. He located a homestead which he worked and developed a number of years and

is now living in Rush County where he is also engaged in farming. His sons, Jacob and Peter, are among the best known residents of the northwest part of Barton County and are up-to-date and progressive farmers. Jacob was married to Miss Sophia Schlegel of Otis and they are the parents of two children, Arthur, aged 7 years and Harrison, aged one year. He farms over 400 acres of land in Grant township. His home is located ten miles north of Albert. The home contains four rooms and is located in pretty surroundings.

Mr. Brack has been a member of the school board and has also held township offices.

**PETER C. BRACK**—Another member of the Brack family who is well known in this section of the state is Peter C. Brack. He was married to Lizzie Schlegel of Otis and they are the parents of four children: Floyd, 12 years of age, Hannah, 11 years of age; Edwin, 9 years of age, and Edison, a year and a half old. He occupies a nice home of four rooms north of Albert and is a brother of Jacob Brack and a son of Henry V. Brack, one of the first settlers of that section of the county. He

was born April 15, 1879 in this county and is one of the best known young farmers in Barton County. He farms about 400 acres of land, 320 acres of it being his own and the remainder being rented. Both the Brack boys understand farming thoroughly as they were both raised in the business and since they were old enough to take an active part in the affairs of their community they have had a great deal to do with the development of the resources of the county and are enterprising and progressive citizens.

## ALFRED L. POWELL

**ALFRED L. POWELL** was born January 22, 1859, in Peoria County, Illinois, and came to Kansas in 1880. He first located in Jefferson County where he lived for a number of years. Most of the time he was in the threshing business and made his first trip to Barton County in 1900. He did not locate in this county until 1903 and since that time he has done a large part of the threshing work in this part of the state. He was married in 1880 to Miss Lou M. Cahill in Stark County, Illinois and they are the parents of three children: Gertrude, 30 years of age, is now Mrs. E. H. Rulison of Eskridge, Kansas; Frank B., 26 years of age is a resident of the city of Great

Bend and is a carpenter by trade; Pearl, 21 years of age, is living at home. Mr. Powell and family occupy a residence at 700 Stone. Mr. Powell's threshing outfits consist of the very best of machinery and his services are in great demand during the harvest season in this and adjoining counties. It was during Mr. Powell's first trip to this county that he decided to make this his future home and he at once made arrangements for the transfer of his machinery, etc., from Jefferson County. Since that time he has been closely identified with the farming interests of Barton County and he has always been an enterprising citizen.

## AMOS JOHNSON

**ONE** of the really old timers of Barton County and one who had a great deal to do with the upbuilding of Great Bend and the development of the county is the subject of this sketch, Amos Johnson. He was born in Champagne County, Ohio, November 12, 1838. He resided in his native state until 1859 when he went to Texas. He stayed there a year. Then he went to Illinois. He came to Barton County in the month of November, 1875. He purchased a quarter of railroad land and took up a homestead in Lakin township. He was actively engaged in the farming business until 1898 when he retired and came to the county seat to live. He has, however, given his personal attention to superintending the work on all his farm land which is now operated by renters. He was married in Clinton, Illinois, in 1860, to Miss Emma Nagley and they are the parents of ten children, nine of whom are living: Charles, 51 years, is farming in Oklahoma; Clearchus, 49 years, is at home; Clarence, 46, resides in Hutchinson; Clay, 44 years, is farming in Gray County; Clyde, 42 years, is farming near Conway Springs; Clara, 40 years, is at home; Clinton, 38, is in the banking business at Ellinwood; Eason, 31 years, is farming on his father's land; Pearl, 29, is living at home, and (Emma who died when she was ten years of age.) Mr. Johnson was a member of the Forty-first Illinois regiment and belonged to Company F. He served

three years and twenty days, from August 7, 1861 to August 27, 1864. He took part in the battles of Fort Donaldson, Shiloh and was at Jackson and the Siege of Vicksburg. He is a member of the Pap Thomas Post G. A. R., and was commander of the Post in 1911. Mr. Johnson now owns three quarters in Lakin township and a quarter in Great Bend township all of which is under cultivation. He also owns nine lots in Great Bend and five dwelling houses in addition to his residence which is located at 1814 Broadway. The residence is thoroughly modern and contains ten rooms in addition to bath, closets, pantries, etc. Mr. Johnson spent five years in the mining business in Chaffee County, Colorado and still retains some interests in that state. With all his private business he has found time to take an active part in the affairs of the community in which he lives and has held township offices and served on the school board. He is one of those men who made Barton County from an almost barren wilderness and by development work has made of it one of the best in the State of Kansas. It is to such men as Mr. Johnson who came here in the early days and withstood all the adverse conditions with which the old timers had to contend that this county owes its high place among the best agricultural sections of the entire country.



## GUSTAVUS A. WOODBURN

**G**USTAVUS A. WOODBURN was born February 23, 1847, in La Porte, County, Indiana. He arrived in Barton County April 20, 1886. Soon after his arrival he took up the occupation of farming and is one of those men who came here at a time when the county was in need of enterprising men, and men who could take the good years with the bad and continue to develop the soil to its present high state of productiveness. He was married August 13, 1867 to Miss Emma J. Harriott of La Porte County, Indiana. They are the parents of four children, three of whom are living. (George, 25 years of age died in 1893;) Jessie, 40 years of age, is now Mrs. Fred Wells of Comanche County; Ida, 39 years of age is now Mrs. G. W. Durand of Eureka township, this county, and Joseph C., 37 years of age, superintends the work on the home place. The home place consists of the northwest quarter of section 29, and the north half of the southwest quarter of 29 in South Home-

stead township. The elder Mr. Woodburn retired in 1909 and now resides in Hoisington. He spends part of the time on the home place which contains a good set of improvements. The residence contains five rooms, closets, etc., while the barn is 32 by 36. The buildings are surrounded by shade and fruit trees and it is a most desirable country home. Joseph C. was married in March, 1897 to Miss Gertrude King and they are the parents of seven children: Gustavus, 14; Mildred, 13; Bailey, 11, Ruth, 10; Daisy, 9; Cecil, 6 and Delbert 3 years of age. All the children are at home and are being educated in the schools of the county. Mr. Woodburn is an engineer on the Missouri Pacific Railroad but spends all the spare time on the home place. The Woodburn family is well known in all parts of the county and Joseph C. and his father have had a great deal to do with the development of the county's resources and have helped to make it one of the best in the State of Kansas.

## JOSEPH SCHNEIDER

**O**NE of the best known men in Barton County, and one of the men who have had so much to do with the development of the northwestern part of the county is Joseph Schneider, who landed in this county with his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. John Schneider, in a blizzard, April 20, 1875. He was born in Austria March 19, 1865, but left his native country when he was ten years of age. The family consisted of the parents and five children besides Joseph. On their arrival in Barton County his father took up a homestead two and one-half miles north and east of Albert. Joseph Schneider has always been a progressive and enterprising citizen and now owns 2,280 acres of land in the county. He farms three quarters of land himself and the remainder is rented. He is president of the Farmers State Bank of Albert and is well known in the financial life of the county. He was married in 1889 to Miss Theresa Kober of this county and they are the parents of seven children as follows: Joseph, 22 years of age; Bernard, 20 years of age; Mary, 18 years of age; Leonard, 16 years of age; Francis, 14

years of age; Irwin, 12 years of age and Lottie, 6 years of age. All the children are at home and are being educated in the schools of the county. Mr. Schneider's home place is one of the best developed and most modernly improved to be found in that part of the county. The residence is well built and substantial and contains nine rooms in addition to the bath, closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 46 by 56 feet in dimensions and it like all the many buildings on the place is built especially for the purposes for which they are used. Mr. Schneider has always maintained on his farm a good grade of live stock, both horses and cattle. With all his private interests he has found time to take an active part in the affairs of his township and has been on the school board, has been township clerk and trustee and is known as a good citizen. Mr. Schneider has taken a large part in the work of developing his part of Barton County and he came here at a time when it required men of experience and enterprise to develop this county into one of the best in the State of Kansas.

## SAMUEL GIBSON YEO

**S**AMUEL GIBSON YEO was born July 19, 1848, in Guernsey County, Ohio. He was born and raised on a farm and has followed this occupation all of his life. He remained in his home state twenty-five years after which he went to Iowa where he resided for one year. Then he went to Wisconsin and spent eight years and from that state came to Kansas in 1888. He first located a claim in Sheridan County and stayed there for six years and then came to Barton County where

he rented a farm near Claflin, later buying land which now comprises his home place in Liberty township where he owns one-half of section 12. All of this land is under cultivation and is being farmed by Mr. Yeo. He was married in 1886 to Miss Katie Dew at Fairfield, Iowa. They are the parents of four children: Maud, 32 years of age, is now Mrs. A. J. O'Bleness of Kinsley, Kansas; Clyde, 30 years of age, is married and lives near his parents and is engaged in the farming busi-



ness; Earnest, 26 years of age, who resides at home and George, 25 years old, is farming in Stafford County near Seward. Mr. Yeo's home place is well equipped with buildings and all the necessary machinery and live stock for successful farming. He makes a specialty of raising and breeding short horn cattle and maintains a flock of fancy Buff Cochins chickens. The residence on the home place consists of seven rooms in addition to the pantries,

closets, etc. The barn is ample for all the needs of the farm being 45 by 60 feet in dimensions. Mr. Yeo is a practical farmer having been engaged in this line of work all of his life. Mr. Yeo farms according to modern methods and is one of the successful farmers who have done so much to develop that part of the county lying south of the river from the city of Great Bend.

### JOHN EDWARD COSS

**J**OHN EDWARD Coss was born in Lucas County, Iowa, in 1866. He came to Barton County with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Coss. He is one of four children born to this pioneer family, the others being Molly, Clarke B. and Blanche J. Miss Molly married D. E. Freyburger, a well known resident of this county who died in November, 1901. She is now Mrs. Walter Speck of Chicago; Clarke B. is president of the Heizer State Bank and one of the prominent business men of the county; Blanche J. is now Mrs. F. A. Garrett and they reside on the family homestead in Clarence township it being the northeast quarter of section 12. The estate also owns another half section in this township. John was married to Miss Clara Bell in this county in 1899 and they are the parents of two children; Lester, aged 9 and Ruth, aged 7 years. John Edward Coss is one of the best known business men in that part of

Barton County he having been engaged in the mercantile business in Heizer at different times during the past thirteen years. He bought his present business last July and he and his partner, J. E. Turner, now have one of the best stocks of general merchandise to be found in any small town in this part of the state. The Coss family came to Barton County in June, '74, and the elder Coss who died April 28, 1911, had a great deal to do with the early history of the county and was one of its best known citizens. He with the other pioneers began the work that the present generation is continuing and his name will always be remembered by the old timers and read with reverence by younger people in years to come. They will read of him with other men to whom Barton County owes its high standing among the best counties of the state of Kansas and among the leading agricultural sections of the world.

### JOHN FRANK BALES

**J**OHN FRANK BALES, or Colonel John Bales as he is better known, was born in Green County, Tennessee, April 18, 1876, and went with his parents to Missouri when he was four years of age. He remained there until 1900 when he came to Barton County, Kansas, where he has since resided and taken an active part in the development of the county's resources. He owns 320 acres of land in section 6, Great Bend township and farms a section and a half in that part of the county, and for the past several years has made a specialty of buying and selling cattle. It is doubtful if there are a dozen farmers in Barton County who do not know John Bales personally because whenever there has been a public sale of any nature during the past four years, almost invariably his name will be found on the sale bills. In this profession Mr. Bales has earned more than an ordinary reputation. His keen business sense, his knowl-

edge of values on all goods he is called upon to sell, and his belief in a square deal have all contributed to his success in this line of work. As an auctioneer there is no man who is better or more favorably known in this section of the state than Mr. Bales. His home place has a good set of improvements including a five room residence, a barn 72 by 42 feet in dimensions and all other necessary outbuildings. Mr. Bales was married in 1905 to Miss Dora Kay of Coffeyville, Kansas, and they have one bright little girl, Ruth, three years of age, and another, Helen, who at this writing is eight months old. Mrs. Bales is a native of this county, having been born south of the river. Mr. Bales has always been among the most active residents of the county in its development and making of it one of the best in the State of Kansas and placing it among the most productive in the entire county.

### JOHN BERSCHIEDT, Jr.

**J**OHN BERSCHIEDT, JR., was born in Aurora, Illinois, October 1, 1873, and came to Barton County with his parents when he was four years of age. The family located near Claflin in Logan township and

John, Sr., at once took up the occupation of farming. He was one of the really old timers of this part of the state and had a great deal to do with the development of the soil and reclaiming this part of Kansas from the Indians

and buffaloes. John, Jr., attended the schools in this county and began farming for himself in 1906. He was married in Ellinwood in 1910, to Mrs. Lizzie Weisburg. At the time of their wedding Mrs. Weisburg had one child, Mamie who is now fifteen years of age and she and Mr. Berscheidt are the parents of one child, John, Jr., who is five months of age and makes the third John in the Berscheidt family. Mr. and Mrs. Berscheidt own the home place, 160 acres about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Ellinwood and 380 acres one mile west of there. The home place is farmed by Mr. Berscheidt while the remainder of the land is rented. The residence which is thoroughly modern and one of the neatest in that section of the county con-

tains 9 rooms with a bath and all the necessary closets, etc. The barn, 30 by 38 feet is ample to take care of the stock used by Mr. Berscheidt in his farming operations. They have lived on this place a little more than one year and are improving it in such a way that it will be one of the most attractive places in the county in a very few years. Fine shade trees have been set out, many of them being of the fruit bearing variety. Mr. Berscheidt is experimenting with irrigation methods and has a fine pumping plant on his place and if the writer is not mistaken he will open a new era in farming methods in this county providing the water supply is ample to carry on the experiments he has in mind.

### NICHOLAS WILLIAM KLEPPER

NICHOLAS WILLIAM KLEPPER was born in Germany, December 24, 1851, and came to America with his parents when he was 12 years of age. The family located at Aurora, Illinois, where they remained until 1878 when they came to Barton county and at once took up the occupation of farming. Mr. Klepper has been a most successful farmer and helped in no small way in the work of developing that section of the county that is adjacent to Ellinwood where Mr. Klepper now lives in a fine modern residence. Mr. Klepper now owns thirteen quarter sections of land in Barton County and a half section in Ford County. All the Barton County land is being farmed by renters, Mr. Klepper having retired in 1905. He was married in 1872 to Miss Mary Madenach in Aurora, Illinois, and they are the parents of seven children as follows: Lizzie, 36 years of age, is now Mrs. John Schwartz, residing in this county; Mary, 34 years is Mrs.

Peter Schwartz, residing south of the river in this county; Peter, 31 years of age, is farming near Ellinwood; Anna, 29 years of age, is now Mrs. Henry Webber of Ellsworth County; John, 24 years of age, is farming in this county; Maggie, 22 years of age, is Mrs. Edward Patz of this county; and Frank, 30 years of age, is now attending Bethany College at Lindsborg, Kansas. Mr. Klepper has always found time to take an active part in the public affairs of the county although he has always been a busy man. He served his district on the board of county commissioners for six years and made a record of which he and his friends may well feel proud. He has always been a sound, substantial citizen and is one of the best known men in Barton County. Their home place in Ellinwood is thoroughly modern in every way and is one of the most beautifully surrounded residences in the town.

### PAUL SCHMIDT

ONE of the best known men of Barton County and one who has had a great deal to do with developing its resources and making of it one of the most important counties of the state is the subject of this sketch, Paul Schmidt. He was born in Germany in 1864 and came to this county when he was twenty years old. He came direct to Barton County and at once took up the occupation of farming which he has followed for twenty-eight years. By using the best methods and giving his personal attention to the supervision of all work on his land he has been most successful and during the present year he decided to move to town and remain. However, Mr. Schmidt is and always has been an active man and the call of the farm was too strong for him to withstand and after a short time in town he moved back to his place which is located about six miles north of Great Bend.

Mr. Schmidt was married in 1890 to Miss Anna Bloomer of Claflin. They are the parents of four children: Peter, 19 years of age, is in Salt Lake City; Katie, 18 years of age, is now Mrs. John Ehlers; James, 16 and John 14, are living at home. Mr. Schmidt's home place contains ten rooms besides bath, closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 32 by 48 feet in dimensions and it as well as all the buildings on the home place are well built and commodious. A fine orchard is found on the home place. It occupies about two acres of land and produces all varieties of fruits common to this part of the country. Mr. Schmidt is an enterprising and progressive citizen and one who has had a great deal to do with the development of Barton's resources and making of this county one of the best in the State of Kansas.

## AMASA C. MOSES AND FAMILY

TO ATTEMPT to write a complete history of Amasa Moses at this time would be an impossibility, and even though the work had been attempted when he was still alive, it would have been found difficult. Amasa Moses was not the kind of man who bid for recognition for every kind act he did, but rather evaded all publicity. He was of that disposition that endeared him to all with whom he came in contact, and his friendship was something to be prized. There never was a man in central Kansas who had more to do with its upbuilding, and there never was a man in Barton County who was so universally respected, or whose counsel was more eagerly sought by those who were in need of sympathy and advice. In the early days of this county there were many who went to Amasa Moses for aid and guidance,

Clayton L., Edward W., William A., Lincoln C., Cassius M. and Seward E. It is seldom that a family containing seven boys can be found without one or more sisters and it is seldom that a family can point to seven boys and say: "They have all made good."

Like many other eastern boys, Amasa was seized with the western fever and in 1871, he decided to bring his family to Kansas. Whether or not he knew the conditions that were to be encountered is not known. Be that as it may, it required but a short time for him to lay the foundation for a home. Soon after his arrival, and before Barton County had been organized, he located a homestead which comprised the northwest quarter of section 10, Great Bend township, and situated two and one-half miles north of the city of Great Bend. Then began the



Amasa C. Moses

and not one is known who was refused. It was these elements in his makeup that made him a leader among men and it was these same elements that sustained him and made his efforts successful in aiding in the reclamation of that part of the Great American desert now known as Barton County, Kansas.

Amasa C. Moses was born August 22, 1826, at Ticonderoga, New York. He spent his childhood there and at the age of eleven years went with his parents to Vermont. The family located at the town of Benson where Amasa remained until 1843, when he returned to New York and located in Chautauqua County. It was there that he met and won the heart of Miss Naomi Terry and on April 12, 1848, they were married. They were the parents of seven boys: Arthur H.,



Mrs. A. C. Moses

struggle to raise crops. For seven years he tilled the soil with little or no success in the beginning, but by sticktiveness and well applied effort he finally had the satisfaction of seeing his labors rewarded by the harvest of grain. It was on this homestead that Mr. Moses erected the first frame house to be built in this county and it is still in use today and stands on the old homestead which is now known as the Griffith place, and is one of the interesting parts of the county. Amasa was accompanied to this section by his wife who proved her worth by sharing the hardships uncomplainingly and gladly accepting the burden that was thrust upon her, and his seven sturdy boys only one of whom—Arthur—had reached his majority. When they reached what was to be their new home, buffalo and other animals roamed this part





The Moses Brothers, Sons of A. C. and Naomi Moses. Standing From Left to Right; Lincoln, Seward,  
Cassius. Seated From Left to Right; Arthur, Will, Edward, Clayton



of the state in an almost unmolested state. Armed with Henry rifles the Moses boys soon became known as expert buffalo hunters and many a tale can be related by them of how they crawled upon the ground sometimes as much as a quarter of a mile in order to get within rifle range of the animals. Later the boys secured Sharp's rifles and with these—the highest class of firearms in those days—their hunting was rewarded by much better results.

In those days the returns realized from the sale of buffalo hides and meat represented about all the money that could be raised in this county. The crops were not giving very satisfactory returns and had it not been for the fact that the population of the county, small as it was, the people composing it, like Amasa Moses and his sons, were made of the right kind of stuff to withstand the hardships



Clayt Moses, Ed. Moses, Tom Mitchell, Jim Shaw

and building an empire by the force of their genius.

In 1872 Mr. Moses embarked in the mercantile business, his establishment having been located on the north side of the park square, on lot 16, block 78. This ground is now included in the site of the new federal building. At his store was found a complete stock of general merchandise. The old store building is still in use and serves the purpose of a residence near the Missouri Pacific depot. Mr. Moses operated this store until the spring of 1873 when he formed a partnership with J. H. Hubbard. This firm continued until 1875 when the stock was divided, at which time Clayton bought his father's interest which consisted of a stock of remnants. Clayton operated the store in the same building

used by his father until 1877, when he and his brother, Edward, formed a partnership and started the store known as the Moses Brothers on lot 4, block 90, this ground being now occupied by the Cyclone store on Main street.

In 1872, when the people were called upon to choose their first set of city officials, it was only natural that Amasa Moses was selected to fill one of the most important offices. Accordingly he was elected the first city clerk of Great Bend and served with great credit and as the town was new it required a man of Mr. Moses' ability to discharge the duties of this office in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. Moses always took a leading part in matters religious and municipal and he was one of five christians who organized the Congregational church in 1873. He served the county as superintendent of public instruction during the first years after schools were established in the county. He organized Barton County's first Sunday school and was its superintendent. This work was not so easily accomplished in those days as it might seem to those who know of the conditions that prevailed at that time only by reading, and by hearing the old timers tell of them. However, Mr. Moses was the kind of man who met all difficulties with fortitude and determination which accounts for the fact that success met his every effort and he never was happier than when he was accomplishing something that resulted in good for others.

When the Moses family arrived in Barton County there were a large number of Indians roaming this part of the state, and on their trips back and forth from the Platte river in Nebraska they frequently visited Mr. Moses' home. However, he met them in a friendly spirit and as a result they came to like him and his family almost as did the white settlers.

It was the first Sunday the family spent in their new home that a band of 5,000 or more Pawnees stopped at the Moses homestead. One of the number was ill. Mrs. Moses gave him some medicine and brought him around in fine shape. The Indian had given Mr. Moses a pony as a present, but when the band was ready to continue their journey, the buck—Indian like—insisted on getting his pony. Of course Mr. Moses gave him back the present but after that he was known among the Indians as "Old Mose." When the Indians would become hostile and show indications that they were going to commit some depredation the government would send troops to this section. As soon as the Indians saw the troops they would move away but with the troops on their way back to the fort from which they came the Indians would return. Mr. Moses had treated them so kindly that he never was molested and his family was held in great respect by all the tribes that were found in this section of the state.

After Mr. Moses had sold his store to his son he still aided him in its management and

when the firm of Moses Brothers was formed he was a great help to the boys in the conduct of the business. He had always led an active life and up until the time of his death was hale and hearty. When on Wednesday, February 9, 1887, at the age of 60 years, 5 months and 18 days, he was suddenly stricken with paralysis and died, he passed away, happy in the thought that his life had not been a failure. Nothing so fitly describes Amasa C. Moses as the quotation: "The elements so mixed in him that all the world could rise up and say, he was a man."

Mr. Moses' death was a great shock to the community. Not only did his sons and other relatives mourn his loss deeply and sincerely, but scores of those who knew him best were bowed down with a weight of woe that seemed almost unbearable.

The Congregational church of Great Bend



### E.W. Moses in Early Days When Hunting Buffalo

of which he was one of the five organizers, was filled with sorrowing friends and relatives when the funeral sermon over the remains of Amasa C. Moses was preached. The new house of worship of this church contains a beautiful memorial window placed there by his sons to their father's memory. This is not the only memorial to Amasa Moses; there are others of a material kind, but the most desirable of them all is the memorial he wrote by his deeds upon the hearts of men.

There are none of the old timers and very few of those who arrived in the county after the disappearance of the buffaloes and Indians that did not know the Moses boys. The old timers knew them for their sterling worth as friends and neighbors and they knew them for the active part they took in aiding their

father and mother in building a home in the land. Every one of the seven sons of Amasa Moses has made good in the different lines they have followed.

Three of the boys: Clayton, Edward and Lincoln stayed with Barton County and have been closely identified with its agricultural, cattle, commercial, milling and banking interests. The remainder of the boys have cast their lots with other sections of the country, but without exception they look upon Barton County as their home.

Ed and Clayt Moses, as they are familiarly known, were born in Chautauqua County, New York, the former at Clymer, on July 23, 1856, and the latter at Clymer, January 19, 1854.

In 1871, when the family arrived in Barton County, Clayt hunted buffaloes until the fall of the year when he went to the town of Russell, in Russell County, and was employed as a clerk in the store owned by George Hart. He remained there a year and returned to Great Bend where he was employed in the store owned and conducted by his father and J. H. Hubbard. Clayt's principal duties consisted in buying hides from the hunters. This position required tact and knowledge in sorting the hides into their respective classifications, buffalo bull hides bringing \$3.00, spike, or young bull and heifer hides, \$1.75, while a cow hide brought \$2.25. Many of the hunters would claim that some of the hides belonged to a classification higher than they really did and this was where Clayt's tact came in. These hides were brought for many miles on wagons and gave the farmers and professional hunters a good source of revenue. After the hide business had run its course and the animals were scarce Clayt went into the store where he remained as a clerk until the division of the stock in 1875. Clayt took over his father's interest and conducted a store in the same building until 1877, when he and Ed formed a partnership and opened the store on Main street, where the Cyclone store now stands. This firm continued until 1889 when they sold out to Theodore Griffith, the present postmaster of Great Bend. This sale included only the grocery department of the store and in the following year the dry goods and furnishing goods were sold to Hacker Brothers.

By this time the land of Barton County had begun to yield grain in good quantities and Clayt went into the grain buying business in earnest. The firm had been buying wheat that was hauled to town in sacks, saving it until a carload was secured when it could be shipped to the markets. In 1878 Clayt formed a partnership with R. C. Bailey and they built an elevator on the Santa Fe track. This firm continued until 1892 when they bought an elevator at Pawnee Rock and one at Olmitz. Then Ed was taken into the firm and later Clayt and Ed bought Bailey's interest in the business and the new firm was known as the Moses Brothers Grain Company. The home elevator was destroyed by fire in 1898. Work was at once begun to rebuild the elevator and

a much larger and more substantial one was finished in 1899. In 1901 a flour mill was added to the firm's holdings and the firm name was changed to the Moses Brothers Mill and Elevator Company. By this time the firm had increased its holdings by adding elevators on the main line of the Santa Fe from Dodge City to Dartmouth, from Great Bend to Scott City on the branch, and from Great Bend to McCracken on the Missouri Pacific.

This string of elevators made a total of thirty-five with the home elevator at Great Bend. The flour mill as originally built had a capacity of 350 barrels per day. In 1903 this capacity was increased so that the mill could turn out 600 barrels of flour every twenty-four hours, and in 1908 the mill was again enlarged to a capacity of 1,000 barrels per day.

In 1908 the company was incorporated

Moses, together with other substantial citizens of the county, decided to go into the banking business and, as a result, the German American State Bank was opened for business August 8 of that year. The bank was organized with a capital stock of \$100,000 and \$5,000 surplus. The first board of directors was composed of E. W. and C. L. Moses, Ira Brower, Elrick C. Cole, Ben P. Unruh, E. C. Davis and Dr. Morrison, and at this writing it is the same with the exception of Mr. Unruh whose place on the board was taken by Fred Moore. The officers of the bank are: E. W. Moses, president; C. L. Moses, vice president; Clarence Aldrich, cashier, and Earl Wright, assistant cashier. Since the bank was opened for business its deposits have grown steadily and it has made a most enviable record for square deal methods, and for carrying on its business according to the most approved and conservative ideas. The stock of this bank is



Moses Bros. Mill and Elevator

with a capital stock of \$200,000 with the following officers: C. L. Moses, president; E. W. Moses, vice president and treasurer, and C. N. Moses, secretary. In 1909 half the stock of the company was sold to L. E. Moses, who became president of the company with C. L. Moses, vice president, and R. W. Arndt, secretary. The mill and elevator was operated by this company until January 1, 1912, when it, with six other of the largest milling companies in Kansas, formed a merger which resulted in a company being formed with a capital stock of \$7,000,000 and known as the Kansas Flour Mills Company. Since that time this company has acquired two more big mills by purchase. L. E. Moses is president of this company, the other officers being: Andrew Hunt, secretary, and J. H. Hildrige, treasurer.

Early in the year 1910 E. W. and C. L.

owned by men who have spent their time and money to make Barton County and Great Bend what they are today. The bank is operated for the people of this county and during the approximately two years of its existence, has gained the confidence of all the people with whom it has had business relations.

Foll wing in the footsteps of their father, the Moses boys have led most active lives and with all their other interests have found time to successfully operate one of the largest thoroughbred stock ranches in this part of the country. In 1898 Ed and Clayt began the breeding and raising of thoroughbred Hereford cattle. The product of this ranch is known among cattle fanciers as one of the best strains of aristocratic Herefords in the country. The fame of this stock has been almost world wide and the Moses Brothers have shipped animals from this ranch to all parts



of the country and to far away Brazil. Since 1898 they have marketed about 1,000 head of stock from their herd and at this writing have 500 fine animals on their 4,000-acre ranch in Ness County. In addition to this ranch, Ed and Clayt own 3,600 acres of farm land in Barton and Stafford Counties, most of it being farmed under their personal supervision and the remainder being farmed by renters. Their cattle are known in all the states surrounding Kansas and in many parts of this country and Mexico.

Since the Moses boys came to Barton County all of its members have taken a leading part in its unbuilding and while some of the boys have removed to other parts of the country the work they did in this country in its early history is still vivid in the memory of the old timers.

Clayt Moses was married December 12,

Ed and Clayt Moses are home loving men and occupy modern residences in Great Bend and are among the best known citizens in the state of Kansas.

Arthur H. Moses was the only one of the boys who was of age when the family arrived in this county. He took up a homestead that comprised the northeast quarter of section 10, Great Bend township. He was married in 1872 to Miss Ella Snowden at Russell, Kansas, and they are the parents of four children. One of them died in infancy and the adult ones are: Clyde, who became the wife of Alva Adams, Jr., of Pueblo, he being a son of Alva Adams, who was three times governor of the state of Colorado. She died in 1905 at Pueblo, Colo. Matie, the next child, is the wife of Frederick C. Briggs, formerly of Pueblo, Colo., but now in the jewelry business in Hutchinson. Wm. B. is married



German American State Bank

1879, to Clara J. Mitchell of Quincy, Ill. They are the parents of two children, Earl C., 28 years of age, who is foreman of the flour mill owned by the company of which his father is a member; Lillian Alice, 25 years of age, lives at home. He served as councilman of Great Bend city from 1888 to 1892 and as county commissioner from 1892 to 1898.

Edward Moses was married March 29, 1882, to Miss Anna J. Wood of Great Bend. He was chosen as mayor of the city of Great Bend in the years 1884, 1885, 1893, 1905, 1907 and 1909 and always served with distinction and in a way that was very gratifying to his friends and the people of the town. Much of the progress the city has made was accomplished during the time that Mr. Moses held the highest office within the gift of the people of the city.

and lives at Osceola, Okla. Arthur H. Moses remained in Barton County until 1885, when he went to Pueblo, Colo., and there took an active part in the politics of that state. He was elected sheriff of Pueblo County in the nineties. He went from Colorado to Seattle, Washington, where he holds a responsible position as wharfmaster for the United States government. He was born February 21, 1871.

Will Moses came to Barton County when his parents arrived here, as stated in the beginning of this article. In 1879 he went on the road for Julius Kuhn, wholesale grocery house of Atchison. He remained in this position until 1882, when he went to Pueblo, Colo., and engaged in the grocery business. December 21, of that year, he was married to Miss Grace Buckland of Great Bend. He was elected sheriff of Pueblo County in 1891 and



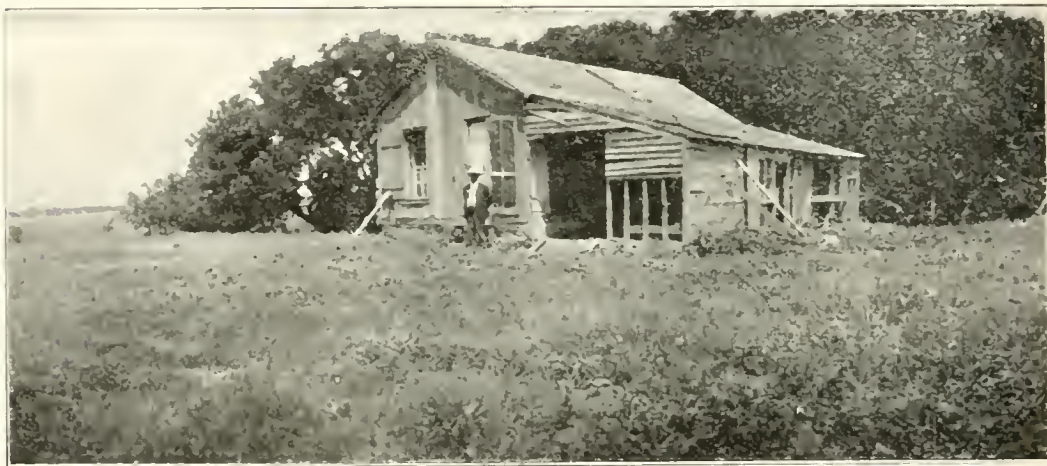
succeeded himself in this office in 1893. In 1898 he went to Kansas City and since that time has been in the grain business. Mr. and Mrs. Moses were the parents of two children, Arthur C. Moses, 22 years of age, who graduated from K. U. in June, 1912, and Elinor, 11 years of age. Mr. Moses survived his first wife, she having died July 15, 1906, and in April, 1908, he married Mrs. Stella Weaver of Los Angeles, California.

Cassius M. Moses was born in Clymer, Chautauqua County, New York, January 31, 1865, and was the sixth of the seven sons of Mr. and Mrs. Amasa C. Moses. He came with the parents to Barton County in 1871. He married Miss Betsy Coningham of Frederick, Illinois, October 14, 1890, and they are the parents of two children, Donna, born December 13, 1894, and John Campbell, born August 20, 1896. In 1889 he enlisted in the Colorado national guard. He was commissioned lieutenant in October of that year,

usual strenuous life of those pioneer days, when the buffalo, the other animals of the plains and the Indian were all here.

In the spring of 1882, he went to work for Moses Brothers and continued with them until the autumn of 1887 when they retired from the general merchandise business. He then went to Pueblo and Denver, Colorado, where he made his home until he removed to Los Angeles, California, in the latter part of 1902.

Seward E. Moses, youngest of the seven brothers, was born in Chautauqua County, New York, and came to Barton County with his parents in 1871, at the age of three and one-half years. He worked for Moses Brothers in their general store until 1887, when he went to Pueblo, Colorado. He was in the grocery business there until 1902. He returned to Great Bend at that time, being interested in the Barton County flour mills until 1907. Then he moved to Kansas City, Mo.,



First Frame House in Barton County, Built by A. C. Moses

was advanced to captain in December, 1890, and to the rank of major in 1893. He was appointed and commissioned adjutant general of the state of Colorado in January, 1895. He organized the First Colorado regiment of infantry, United States volunteers, in 1898, after war had been declared with Spain. He resigned as adjutant general of Colorado in 1898. He was commissioned major of the regiment he organized, the First Colorado. He was mustered out of service at the Presidio in San Francisco, September, 1899. He participated in many of the important engagements before Manila, P. I., during the war and distinguished himself as a soldier. He served during the insurrection in the islands until he was wounded June 9, 1899, being unfit for further service.

After coming to Barton County, his early boyhood days were spent on the Moses homestead, just north of Walnut creek, punching cows, working on the farm and living the

becoming interested in The Moses Brothers Grain Company. He married Edith G. Balcon of Pueblo, Colo., in 1899.

The following incident, related by S. E. Moses, will recall the old times to those who were here in those days:

"Although quite young in the buffalo and Indian days, I distinctly remember my first and only buffalo hunt. It was soon after our arrival in Barton County. The family were on the old homestead, north of the creek, where it was no uncommon sight to see buffalo come over the hills down to the creek for water; occasionally one would come up to the water trough at our well for drink.

"One day an old bull buffalo drifted down over the hill leisurely and finding the grazing about a quarter of a mile from our home to his liking, made himself quite at home. Brother Ed, being at home, and considered some hunter, evidently resented our farm being used for feeding grounds and prepared

for action. His favorite gun was within easy reach, and feeling confident the buffalo had no chance against his marksmanship, he grabbed me by the hand and said, "Come on, Sew, and we will kill the buffalo." We went through the tall grass to a ravine and made a fine stand on the game. Ed waited for the old bull to turn so that he could hit him in a vital spot. His aim was evidently good as the buffalo fell at the first shot and we made our way cautiously to the fallen monarch. When within a few feet the buffalo looked so very dead that Ed prepared to cut its throat and, having me to drag along, Ed laid down his gun and drew his hunting knife; as he started to stick the knife into the buffalo things commenced to happen. First, a bellow was let loose that scared me out of a year's growth. Then Mr. Buffalo got up with blood in his eye and started on a campaign of his own. Ed picked me up bodily and started for home. I am sure his time has never been equaled since, although we had no stop watches in those days. The buffalo did not follow us far, as he was hard hit and, no doubt readily recognized Ed's speed as well

as marksmanship. After landing yours truly at the house, your former city mayor armed himself with another rifle and shortly put an end to my only buffalo hunt."

Lincoln E. Moses was born October 14, 1860, in the state of New York. He was married to Miss Gertrude Tucker at Three Rivers, Michigan, May 12, 1891, and they are the parents of three children: Edward, Walter and Marguerite. He now makes his home at Wichita, Kansas, since he became president of the Kansas Flour Mills Company.

Arthur H. Moses was born February 21, 1851, in the state of New York, and is therefore the eldest of the seven Moses boys. He was married to Miss Ella Snowden of Russell, Kansas, April 20, 1872, and they are the parents of three children: Wm. B., Mary E., and Clyde L., the latter having died in 1905 at the age of 23 years. While in Barton County Art, as he was better known, was engaged in the farming and threshing business. He is now located at Seattle, Washington, where he is wharfmaster for the United States government.

## FREDERICK SCHUELKE

THE property of Frederick Schuelke, "Locust Grove Farm," thirteen miles west from Great Bend, takes its name from the many locust trees included in a five acre grove surrounding the home. These trees are forty years old, are very beautiful and thrifty, and are the result of a timber claim set in trees in 1871 by John Bement.

Frederick Schuelke was born in Germany on February 19th, 1840, and came to America in May, 1874. He first located in Wauwatose, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, where he worked in a nursery and a pickling factory for a time, and also engaged in farming and at other work. He remained until March 4th, 1885, when he removed to Greattinger, Palo Alto County, Iowa, and engaged in farming on his own account as a renter, and then in 1888 was employed as the manager and superintendent of a large farm on salary. Resigning this position after several years he purchased a farm of four hundred acres and cultivated this until he sold out and came to Barton County on March 1st, 1901. He purchased his present one hundred and sixty acres from John Bement and paid for the quarter three

thousand dollars. Since then he has built a very nice seven room, story and one-half frame dwelling, large barn, granary and other buildings, at a cost of \$2,500, and today has one of the most desirable little farms in the county. It is well improved, well fenced, well shaded, and the house and grounds are in the coolest spot in the county on a summer's day, and well sustains the name given the farm.

Frederick Schuelke was married on February 16th, 1863, to Miss Anna Giesel, of the same section of Germany from which he came, and she died in Barton County on August 2nd, 1907, slightly over six years after coming to Kansas. They are the parents of six children, two of whom still live in Wisconsin. Those who reside in this state are: Mrs. Ida Hans, of Great Bend; Mrs. Minnie Gruenwald, of Rush County; Herman Schuelke, Lyons, Kansas and Conrad Schuelke, who is married and resides on the place with his father and manages the farm. Conrad Schuelke was married on April 18, 1906, and they are the parents of three children: Elmer, 4; Arthur 3, and Goldie, 1.

## WILLIAM HENRY ROGERS

WILLIAM HENRY ROGERS was born in Ontonagon County, Michigan, May 1, 1863. His first trip west was when he was eight years old, at which time he accompanied his parents to Colorado where they remained about six months. They returned to Michigan and resided at Marquette four years,

after which they came to Barton County, Kansas. The family located in Eureka township. For several years after his arrival here Mr. Rogers went to school, and later took up railroading as an occupation. He was employed by the Union Pacific Company in Colorado. Mr. Rogers began farming in this county in

1890, on his home place which comprises one-half of section 1, South Bend township. Mr. Rogers superintended the farming of all of this land and has had a great deal to do with the development of the soil in that part of the county. He was married in Great Bend to Miss Sarah Williams in 1886. They are the parents of six children as follows: Harry E., 24 years of age; Stella, 21 years of age; Alice, 19 years; Irene, 17 years; Annie, 16 years; Willie 12 years. All of the children with the exception of Stella are at home and are being educated in the schools of the county. Stella is now Mrs. Frank S. Moore and they reside

many varieties of fruits common to this section of the county. With all Mr. Rogers' private business he has found time to take an active part in public affairs and has served as trustee and clerk of his township and has been a member of the school board for sixteen years. He is a progressive and enterprising farmer and a most prominent citizen.

We must add to the above the fact that Annie passed from this life May 19, 1912, at a time when she had many expected years of happiness stretching out before her, and when she was beloved by her relatives, schoolmates and all with whom she had an acquaintance.



Home of W. H. Rogers

near Spearville, Kansas. Mr. Rogers' home place is one of the best improved and most attractive in the county. The residence consists of nine rooms in addition to the bath room, closets, pantries, etc. The barn is well built and is 42 feet square with a big loft. Granaries, storage sheds, auto garage and all the other outbuildings usually found on a modern Barton County farm are to be found here. The trees that surround the home afford ample shade and the orchard which covers about an acre and a half of ground contains

She was valedictorian of the 1912 class of the common schools of Barton county. Her school mates were deeply affected by her death as was evidenced by the beautiful floral tribute sent for the funeral. She was a bright, intelligent girl whose life was a beautiful example of truth and simplicity and it was a hard blow to her relatives and friends when in the course of things she had to go to a better world. She was, at the time of her death, aged 16 years, 6 months and 10 days.

## HENRY C. COOK

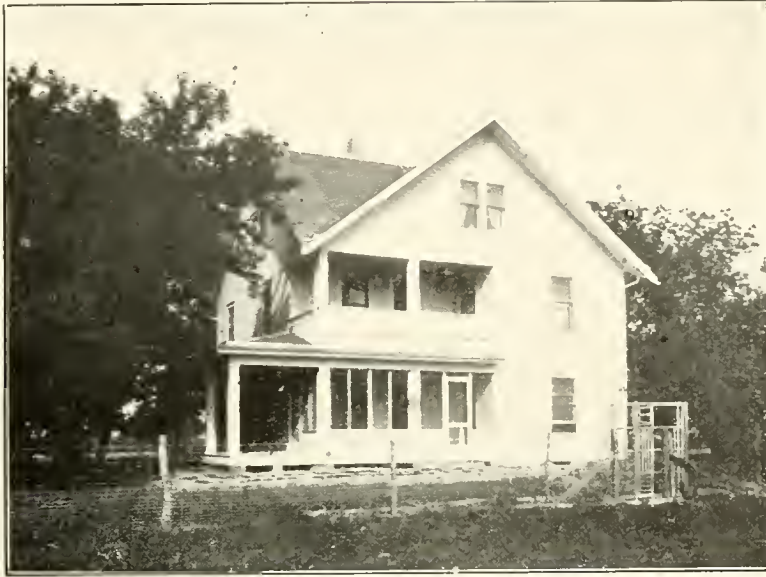
ONE of the first white children born in what is now Barton County is the subject of this sketch, Henry C. Cook. He was born in Great Bend township October 6, 1871. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Cook, pioneers of this county and the parents of some of its leading citizens. The elder Cook died October 16, 1897 and Mrs. Cook died February

13, 1891, after having taken an active part in the development of the county's resources for about thirty years. His death was a great shock to his many friends who knew him for his high character and enterprise. Henry C. was married November 22, 1894, to Miss Elizabeth Amerine and they are the parents of four children as follows: Velma, 15 years;



Lawrence, 14 years; Elmer, 11 years and Helen, 6 years of age. The family home is located on the northwest quarter of section 8, Great Bend township and is one of the most attractive country homes in the county. The residence consists of 12 rooms in addition to the bath, closets, pantries, etc., and is thoroughly modern throughout. It is lighted by a

Walnut creek and is surrounded by excellent shade trees and foliage that adds greatly to its appearance. Mr. Cook has always taken a great interest in improving the breed of the cattle and horses on Barton County farms and makes a specialty of breeding and raising thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses. He now owns one of the best Perch-



Home of Henry C. Cook

modern acetylene gas plant and is supplied with water by an individual pumping system. The barn is 46 by 80 feet in dimensions and is well built and modern. Mr. Cook will add a number of other buildings to his improvements and when these are finished he will have one of the most modern farms in the county. The home place is situated in a bend in the

eron horses in the county, "Martin," a registered, black Percheron that has made a fine reputation in the stud records. Mr. Cook is an enterprising and progressive citizen and has had a great deal to do with the upbuilding of the county and in the developing of its resources.

### EDWIN TYLER

**E**DWIN TYLER was born in Richfield, Illinois, November 27, 1842. He remained in his native state until he was eighteen years of age when he joined the Fiftieth regiment Illinois volunteers. He became a member of Co. C and served his country three years. He took part in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donaldson, Shiloh and Corinth and numerous other engagements. He lost the sight of one eye during his soldier service. This was due to exposure and fever. He came to Barton County October 16, 1871. He was married to Miss Lydia F. Moseley

December 31, 1865, at his home town of Richfield, Ills. Mr. and Mrs. Tyler have had five children but unfortunately only one of them is living, the others having passed away. The one living child now is Mrs. Sam J. Pratt, her maiden name having been Dora May. Mr. Tyler tells in his own way a number of his experiences in articles in this book, so we will only add that he always has been an enterprising and progressive citizen and has done a great deal in developing the county's resources.

### LEVI GUNN

**L**EVI GUNN was born on July 2, 1833, in Franklin County, Massachusetts, and at the age of 18 months his parents moved to Brattleboro, Vermont. When he was

nine years old they took him with them to Davenport, Iowa, and, finally, at a later period, to Putnam County, Illinois. His education was obtained in the public schools of the



districts where his parents lived and he became a farmer under the tutelage of his father. He married at the age of twenty-three and lived happily for seven years, when his companion died. It was then that he faced the greatest hardships of his life but this was righted by a second marriage and his coming to Barton County Kansas, in 1874, and the purchase of 240 acres from the Santa Fe railway company. Later he purchased eighty acres adjoining and at this time his farm covers one-half section. In the spring of 1877 Mr. Gunn removed his family to this county and began improving by building the best house, barn and other necessary buildings in his neighborhood, and by planting and cultivating many trees about the premises. A fire destroyed his house on August 2, 1911, and he has just replaced this building with a

story and one-half cottage with five large, airy rooms. There is a good barn, granary and other outbuildings, and located as it is in a nice grove of cedar, pine and locust trees is very inviting.

Levi Gunn first married Miss Sarah K. Wierman of Putnam County, Illinois, on November 13, 1856, and she died in April, 1862. His second wife was Miss Sarah C. Lewis of Marshall County, Illinois, in November, 1865, who died in December, 1899. They were survived by the husband and the following children: Wm. W. Gunn of Jewell County, Kansas; Charles Lund Gunn, Francis Levi Gunn and Lewis J. Gunn of Great Bend; Howard A. Gunn of Pratt, Kansas; Mrs. Lucy Harrison of Great Bend, and Fred A. Gunn, who resides on the farm with his father and manages the place.

### MERRITT-SCHWIER CREAMERY CO.

**T**HE first creamery in Great Bend was established in 1895 by W. G. Merritt. In 1903 a stock company was formed under the name of the Merritt Creamery Co. The present company is a consolidation of the Merritt Creamery Co., and the Larned Creamery Co., of Larned, Kansas, this consolidation going into effect January 1, 1909.

The company operates one hundred and

woman and child in Barton County.

For the cream and milk used in the manufacture of this butter, their patrons were paid the sum of \$46,720.60. At the present time the company employs twenty-three people in their plant. The pay-roll for the month of June was \$5,070; this includes salaries and commissions paid to their cream station operators for the buying and shipping of cream.



Merritt-Schwier Creamery, Great Bend

one cream buying stations in twenty-five counties in central and western Kansas and northern Oklahoma, and expects to put in more stations wherever the deliveries of cream justify a station.

The largest amount of butter manufactured by this company in any one month since organized was made in the month of June of this year. They manufactured 246,749 pounds of butter, or about 20 pounds for every man,

The company has an excellent market for their butter, shipping as far east as Boston and west to California. Their brands, "Merritt's Best" and "Crown" are well and favorably known all over the west.

The present board of directors are W. G. Merritt, William Schwier, W. F. Schwier, Henry Schwier and C. V. Brinkman. Officers are W. G. Merritt, president; William Schwier, vice-president; W. F. Schwier, secretary-treasurer.

## JOHN DONOVAN

**A**MONG the old timers who came to Barton County in the 70's none is better known than John Donovan who lives on a half section of land in section 8, Great Bend township. Mr. Donovan was born in Ireland in 1839. He came to New York in 1870 and to Kansas in 1879 at a time when it required a great deal of nerve to make a substantial start in the cultivation of the soil and the building of a home. However, Mr. Donovan is made of that kind of material and as soon as he arrived here he began to farm and successfully combatted the bad years and made a success of his occupation. He was married in New York state to Miss Louisa Hettinger and they are the parents of four children, Emma, Agnes, Alice and Anna. Emma is now Mrs. A. Wyman and lives at Macksville; Agnes is now Mrs. Jack Neeland and they live near the home place in this county; Alice is now Mrs. B. Hingy of Stafford county; Anna is living at home. Mr. Donovan had the misfortune to

lose his eyesight about twelve years ago but still superintends the operations on the farm. The home place has a fine set of improvements, the residence containing eight rooms in addition to closets, pantries, etc. A small orchard is found near the house where nearly all varieties of fruits are grown. When Mr. Donovan arrived in this county he was compelled to do his farming with a yoke of oxen and he relates how one time in the early days they ran away with him while he was attempting to plow with them and for a time he did not know whether he liked Kansas or not. He served a term as Justice of the Peace and has always been an enterprising citizen. Mr. Donovan gives due credit to his wife, a hard working little woman who shared her part of the burden with her husband when they were beginning the home that they have since built. Mrs. Donovan is one of those kind hearted motherly women without whose aid the work of developing the great west could not have been done.

## TOBIAS MCGILL

**T**OBIAS MCGILL was born November 9, 1837 in Bartholomew County, Indiana. He remained in his native state until 1858 when he went to Iowa and remained for

ters. Mr. McGill was married September 6, 1860, to Miss Farilla You'sey near LaGrange, Iowa and they are the parents of nine children, six of whom are living. Hilas N. is farm-



Farm Home of Tobias McGill

From left to right: Geo. M'Gill, Crandon O. M'Gill, Mrs. M'Gill, Elva M'Gill, Tobias M'Gill

twenty-six years. He then continued his way westward and arrived in Barton county in 1884. He bought land near Dundee, the quarter section formerly belonging to J. B. Williams, and later purchased another quarter from John Lile. Mr. McGill was actively engaged in farming until 1897 when he retired and moved to Great Bend. He still superintends the work on his farming land which is worked by ren-

ing in this county; Etta, is now Mrs. J. H. Harris of Great Bend; Charlotte is now Mrs. Sherman Mosbarger of Pawnee Rock; Crandon O., is now an attorney at law in Idaho where he also teaches school; Elva is at home and George is county attorney of Sedgewick county, Kansas, and lives in Wichita. Mr. McGill is a veteran of the civil war and is a member of Pap Thomas Post G. A. R. He en-

listed September 6, 1861, in Company G. Sixteenth Iowa, known as Crocker's Iowa Brigade. He served until the close of the war and was mustered out July 19, 1865. He was with Sherman's Army from Atlanta to the Sea and took part in the battles of Fayetteville, Bentonville and was present at the siege of Savannah. He saw much active service during the time of his enlistment. Since coming to Barton county Mr. McGill has always taken a

great interest in affairs of a public nature and held township and school board offices as well as having been assessor for his district and justice of the peace. He is one of the men who had so much to do with the development of the county's resources and saw it grow to its high standing among the counties of the state. He came here at a time that it required men of strong nerve to combat the adverse conditions with which they had to contend.

### C. B. WORDEN

THE subject of this sketch, Chas. B. Worden, together with C. L. Roudebush, planted the first crop in Walnut township near Albert. This was in March, 1871. The crop consisted of corn, potatoes and sorghum, and after making a nice start was destroyed by the dry weather which followed in that year. The remnants of the crop were eaten by the buffaloes which were plentiful in this county at that time. Mr. Worden was born in West Virginia January 1, 1844. He

sas; Ira L., 27 years, is an optician and jeweler in business at Albert; Alvin H., 25 years, is in the postal service at Albert; Charles L., 17, is employed at the McLaughlin Produce Company's establishment in Great Bend; Blanche E., 15 years, is a student in the Great Bend schools. (John W., nine months and Julia A., two years and one month, are deceased.)

Mr. Worden is one of the really old timers to whom this county owes its development and high standing among the best counties in the



Farm Home of C. B. Worden

came to this county in 1871 and immediately began the work of farming. He located a homestead near Albert in Walnut township. He farmed until 1910 when he sold his farm and moved to town and now occupies a nice residence at the corner of Ninth and Holland streets, in Great Bend.

He was married Dec. 15, 1875 to Miss Ada Brown of Walnut township and they are the parents of ten children as follows: Ella L., 35 years, is now Mrs. John Gallon of Great Bend; Hattie D., 34 years of age, is now Mrs. F. E. Pengh of Hoisington; Marsena L., 32 years, is farming near Albert; Alice, 28 years, is now Mrs. E. P. Cowman of Coffeyville, Kan-

State of Kansas. During his residence in this county he has served as county commissioner, and has held township and school board offices in the district where he lived. He is one of those hardy pioneers who reclaimed this section of the country from the buffalo and Indians and he played no small part in the early history of this county and is one of the best known men in this part of the state. He sold his farming interests when he retired but owns his residence and a number of lots and is an enterprising and progressive citizen.

Mr. Worden is a member of the Pap Thomas Post, G. A. R., Great Bend. He served almost four years in the Eighth W. Virginia Infantry,



Company F and Seventh W. Virginia Cavalry; also in Company F. He took part in the battles of Cross Keys, Freeman's Ford, White Sulphur Springs, Second Bull Run, Droop

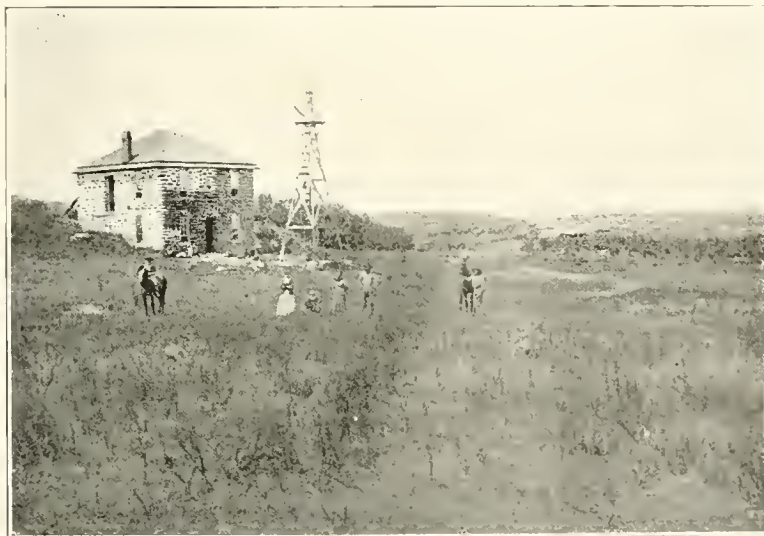
Mountain and Lynchburg as well as others. He served three years and ten months and saw much active service in his country's defense.

## AUGUST FENN

**A**MONG the well known men of Buffalo township is the subject of this sketch, August Fenn. He was born in Clinton County, Illinois September 25, 1868. He came to Barton county in 1886 at a time when this section of the state was going through some mighty hard times and it required men of strong nerve and an unflinching faith in the future to remain and develop the soil. Mr. Fenn is now farming in Buffalo township and his home place is located on the northeast quarter of section 7. He was married in 1893 to Miss Louisa Schultz and they are the parents of five children as follows: Lillie and Luella, twins, 18 years of age; Oscar, 13 years; Earnest, 9 years and Irene, 4 years of age. The home place has a set of good improvements, the residence consisting of nine rooms in addition to the bath room, closets, etc. Mr. Fenn has always maintained a good grade of live stock, both horses and cattle and in addi-

tion to his private interests has always found time to take an active part in all public matters that are for the benefit of the community in which he lives. He has been a member of the school board nineteen years, has held the office of road overseer as well as other township offices. A small orchard is maintained on the home place which adds greatly to its general appearance and in which a number of different kinds of fruit are raised. The residence is located in a most desirable spot and is surrounded by well kept shade trees and other foliage that makes it one of the most attractive places in the township. Mr. Fenn is an enterprising and progressive citizen and enjoys a large acquaintance in all parts of Barton county. Mr. Fenn was the butter maker at the Heizer Creamery in the early days and was the first man in this part of the country to use the combined churn and when it was installed it created a great deal of favorable comment.

## JOHN EVERETT



Farm Home of John Everett

**O**NE of the pioneers of Barton County who is still actively engaged in farming is John Everett who resides on the east half of section 9-19-14, Buffalo township. Mr. Everett was born November 12, 1842 in Putnam county, Illinois. He came to Barton County in 1874 and located on the southeast quar-

ter of section 9 and there erected a stone house, but not until after he had spent a long time in making preparations for the building of a home. Only the old timers know of the real conditions in those days, when it required men of strong nerve and backbone to combat the many adverse conditions with which they



had to contend. The younger generation can learn of them only by reading. Mr. Everett came here at a time when the county needed just such men. He lived in Illinois until he came to Barton County in 1874 except for the time he spent in the army.

He enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Fourth Illinois and served until June 5, 1864. He was in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga, Kenesaw Mountain and on August 2, 1863, he was severely wounded, and saw no more service until the following February. He made a fine record while in the service of his country and after the close of the war he returned to his native state and farmed until 1874.

He was married March 7, 1867 to Miss Anna

M. Bothwell of LaSalle, County, Illinois, and they are the parents of three children: Cora Jane 48 years of age is now Mrs. H. J. Dukes of this county; George W., 45 years of age is on the home place as is also Oliver N. who is 42 years of age. The residence on the home place consists of seven rooms besides closets, pantries, etc. The out buildings are well built and Mr. Everett has made a specialty of raising Red Polled cattle and he always maintains a good grade of horses and cattle. The home place is nicely located with shade and fruit trees surrounding it on all sides. Mr. Everett is one of those men to whom Barton County owes its high standing in the list of the best counties of the State of Kansas.

## FRED V. AMERINE

**A**MONG the young farmers in Buffalo township none is better known than the subject of this sketch, Fred V. Amerine. He is a son of J. W. Amerine one of the old timers of that part of Barton County. The elder Amerine farmed in this county for thirty-two years and is now farming in Kiowa county. The younger Amerine is farming 160 acres of good land in Buffalo township, six miles northwest of Great Bend. He was born January 21, 1884, in this county and has seen it grow from the hard times of the 80's to its present high standing and importance among the counties of the State of Kansas. He was married in March, 1912, to Miss Emma Bortz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Bortz of Rush county who are also old timers of this section of the state. Mr. Amerine farms all his land himself and has a nice set of improvements

which are located in close proximity to Walnut creek, the residence and other buildings being surrounded by large, well kept shade trees which add greatly to the beauty of the home. The residence contains eight rooms, in addition to the bath, closets, pantries, etc. The place is stocked with a good grade of cattle and horses although Mr. Amerine has never dealt in thoroughbred stock of any kind. He has learned by experience the best methods to use in cultivating the soil in Barton county and applies these methods in all his work. He is one of the young men who are now taking the places of the old timers and continuing the work so ably begun by them in the 70's and 80's and it is these young men who are making good progress in the work left them in bringing Barton County to its present high state of cultivation.

## JOHN GRUBER

**O**N writing up the old timers of Barton County there is none that is better or more favorably known than the subject of this sketch, John Gruber who came to this county in 1871 at a time when there were very few people but a large number of buffalo and antelope. Mr. Gruber is one of the old timers who upon their arrival here began their first work and made a living by hunting buffalo. Mr. Gruber located on land in Buffalo township where he still resides. He was born in Austria, July 2, 1839. He was married in 1863 to Miss Katie Wilka, and they are the parents of seven children as follows: Antone, 48 years of age, is farming near the old home place on land given to him by his father; Joseph, 38 years of age, was born in this county and is living with his parents on the home place;

John, Jr., is in the automobile business in Great Bend and is 28 years of age; Mary, 37 years, is now Mrs. E. G. Reidle of this county; Annie, 31 years of age, is now Mrs. Stanley Patterson; Rose, 26 years of age, is Mrs. Pearl Helmes and John, who died when he was four months of age, was the first white child born in Barton County. Mr. Gruber is one of the really old timers of this section of the state and has seen Barton County grow from an abiding place of animals and Indians to its present high state of cultivation. The home place has a fine set of improvements; the residence contains five rooms in addition to closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 20 by 30 and a two acre orchard is found near the house which bears all varieties of fruits common to this part of the country. The place is

well improved and is one of the historical spots of the county. Mr. Gruber has been a member of the school board and held other offices and is one of the county's oldest and most widely known citizens. It is to such men

as Mr. Gruber that Barton County owes its high standing among the leading agricultural sections of the world and makes it one of the best counties in the State of Kansas.

## ANTON GRUBER

ONE of the men who has seen this county grow from an almost barren waste is the subject of this sketch, Antone Gruber. He is a son of John Gruber who located one of the first homesteads in Buffalo township. Antone was born in Austria and came to this county with his parents in 1871 after having spent three years in the State of Michigan. When the family arrived in this country Antone was seven years of age having been born in 1864. He first worked in this county helping his father hunt buffaloes, thousands of which were roaming what is now the most highly cultivated land in the county. He now farms 80 acres of land in Buffalo township on which is located his home place. He has a good set of improvements. The residence contains five rooms in addition to the closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 32 by 20 in dimensions and is arranged for taking care of a large number of head of stock. He was married in 1892 to Miss Lena Schlim who was also born in this county in Clarence township.

Her parents were also among the first permanent settlers in the county. They are the parents of three children as follows: Mary, 17 years of age and (Marguerite who died when she was seven years of age, in 1907) and an adopted boy whose name is George and is seven years of age. Mr. Gruber is one of the men who came to this county when he was yet a child and has had a great deal to do with its development and upbuilding. He has always taken an interest in public matters and has held township and school board offices at different times. He is one of the few residents of the county who can recall the days of Old Fort Zarah and who saw the buffalo when they were almost as thick as ever they were and saw them gradually disappear and make way for plowed fields and cultivated farms. His home place is located just east of his father's home and his brother who is now dead and mentioned in another part of this history was the first white child born in Barton county.

## FRANK P. SHAFFER

FRANK P. SHAFFER was born in Richland county, Ohio, in 1859 and came to Rush county, Kansas, in 1890 and has lived in the State of Kansas since that time.



was married in 1880 to Miss Mary Fesser in Indiana and they are the parents of four children as follows: Cora L., 31 years of age, now Mrs. James McInnes of Cokeville, Wyoming; Franklin A., 26 years of age, living at home as is also Paul who is 16 years of age and Mary M., 27 years of age, now Mrs. Alton Dale of this county. Mr. Shaffer has a well improved home place three miles northwest of Great Bend where he owns 320 acres of land. His residence consists of eight rooms in addition to bath, closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 50 by 30 feet in dimensions, is well built and affords room for a large number of horses. Mr. Shaffer raises a variety of crops and is ably assisted in the operation of the farm by his son, Franklin A. The home place is located in one of the best parts of the county and the shade trees and other surroundings add in no small way to the general appearance of the place. Mr. Shaffer is one of the men who came to Kansas at a time when it needed farmers who could take the land and by well applied effort make it produce crops in a way of which it was capable but needed more modern methods in its cultivation. Mr. Shaffer farms according to methods learned by experience and taking the good years with the poor ones he has succeeded in making them average with a good production of crops.

He came to Barton county in 1901 and bought land in section 17 Great Bend township. He

## HENRY SCHWIER

**H**ENRY SCHWIER is one of the old timers of this section of the state who is still engaged in farming. He was born in Prussia, January 19, 1843 and came to this country when he was eighteen years of age. He first located in Cincinnati where he remained for a year, after which he went to Dearborn County, Indiana, and farmed until the spring of 1878 when he came to Barton County. He had bought land the year previ-

falo township started a creamery at Heizer in the early days and later started one at Larned in 1898. It was consolidated with the one that was in operation at Great Bend, and the outcome of this was the now famous Merritt-Schwier Creamery Company which is one of the largest institutions of the kind in this part of the country. Mr. Schwier's home is well improved and he is one of the men who had so much to do with the development of



Farm Home of Henry Schwier in 1885

ous and now owns 560 acres all of which is being worked by renters. He was married in September, 1866 to Miss Elmira Lempe and they are the parents of four children: Dollie, 44 years of age is now Mrs. D. C. Merhoff of this county; William, 42 years of age, is at Larned where he is interested in the Merritt-Schwier Creamery Co; Lizzie, 40 years of age, is now Mrs. John Hiss of Great Bend and Sophia is now Mrs. Frank Trauer. Mr. Schwier and his son William, with the farmers of Buf-

that section of the county in which he lives. The residence contains seven rooms and the closets and pantries. The barn is 54 by 56 feet and the other outbuildings are well built and commodious. Mr. Schwier has always found time to take an active part in public affairs and served his district as county commissioner for two terms, an office in which he made a good record. He has also held township and school board offices and is an enterprising and progressive citizen.

## EDWARD GRANT BUCKLAND

**E**DWARD GRANT BUCKLAND, a former resident of this county is now living at Washington, D. C. At least he spends a large part of his time in the Capital city. He is vice-president of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad and maintains offices at Washington, D. C., New York City, New Haven, Conn., and Providence, R. I. He was born at Buffalo, N. Y., December 31, 1866. His parents were Andrew J. Buckland and Julia Turner Buckland. The latter died in 1869. Mr. Buckland came to Barton County with his father and three sisters, May 26, 1872. He lived in Great Bend until 1887. In September 1882 he

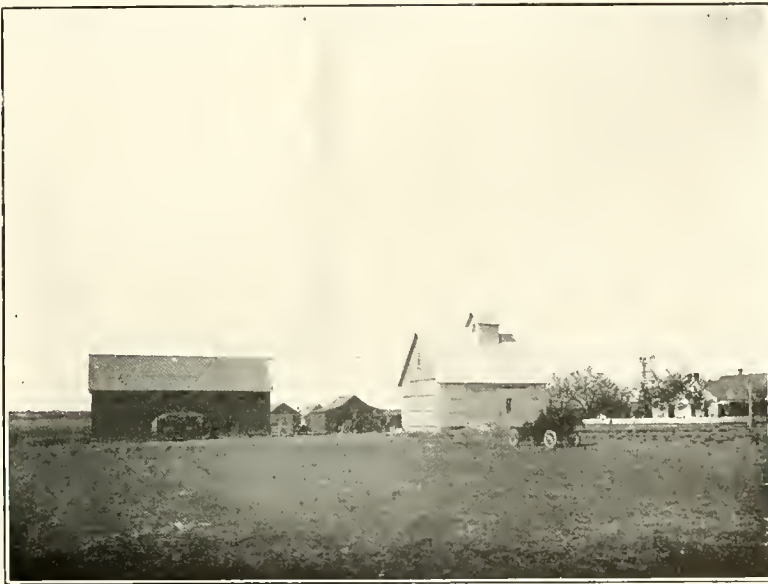
went to Topeka where he attended Washburn College. He graduated from that institution in 1887. He then went to New Haven where he entered the Yale Law School in the autumn of 1887 and graduated in 1889. He became an instructor and later assistant-professor in the law school and in Yale College, at the same time being engaged in the general practice of law with the firm of Townsend & Watrous, afterwards Watrous & Buckland. June 21, 1898, he was appointed attorney for the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company with offices at Providence, R. I. He remained there until January 1, 1904 when he



returned to New Haven as attorney for the road and located at its main office. January 1, 1906 he was appointed vice-president of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Company and again moved to Providence, R. I., where he represented that company's steam railroad, street railway and steamship interests. On March 1, 1910, he again returned to New Haven as a general executive, vice-presi-

dent of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company. He now has offices in Providence, R. I., New Haven, Conn., New York City and Washington, D. C., and represents the company's interests. He was married to Sally Tyler Clark of New Haven, Conn., June 21, 1898. They have two sons and two daughters. The family residence is at New Haven, Conn.

## FRANK MERTEN



Farm Home of Frank Merten

**F**RANK MERTEN was born in Keokuk County, Iowa, February 28, 1870, and came to this county with his parents when he was six years of age. He now occupies the old home place which was located by his father Robert Merten and comprises the southwest quarter of section 11, Clarence township. Frank attended school for several years after he came to this county and began farming for himself in 1891. He owns a section of land in Pawnee county which is being worked by renters while he gives personal attention to the work of farming the home place. He was married February 13, 1895 to Miss Matilda Both, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Both who are also old timers of this section of the state and who are mentioned in another part of this book. Mr. and Mrs. Merten are the parents of six children: Roy E., 15 years of age; Ralph A., 13 years of age; Lillie May, 11 years of age; Rosie Marie, 8 years of age;

Georgia, 2 years of age and Arthur who is two and a half months old. The home place is situated in one of the most desirable parts of the township and the shade trees and other improvements make it one of the most attractive places that one could find in the county. The residence contains nine rooms in addition to the bath, closets, pantries, etc. The barns and other outbuildings are well built and commodious, the elevator having a capacity of 9,000 bushels. The Merten family is one of the best known in the county and are mentioned frequently in the pages of this book. The elder Merten retired several years ago and is now living in Great Bend where he is interested in the banking business and is one of the best known men in the county. Frank Merten has found time with all his private affairs to take an active part in the public affairs of his community and has held township and school board offices as well as taking an interest in anything that is for the benefit of the county.



## BERT TRESTER

OF the young farmers who are developing the soil in Eureka township none is better known than the subject of this sketch, Bert Trester. He is a son of J. B. Trester who has been a resident of this county forty years. The elder Mr. Trester is one of the really old timers of the county having come here at a time when the county needed men with strong nerve, a knowledge of farming and faith in the future sufficient to make them stay through the hard years of the seventies and finally develop the soil to a state of productiveness. The younger Mr. Trester is now farming three quarters of land which be-

longs to his father. He was born in this county December 29, 1886 and is therefore a product of the county. It is due to this fact and the fact that he has always been in the farming business that he knows the way to farm to get the best results. He has learned the best methods by actual experience. He was married in 1910 to Miss Margaret Weege of Eureka township, and they are the parents of one child, Margery May who is about two months old at this writing. Mr. Trester is an enterprising and progressive farmer and well prepared to take up the development work of the land where his father left off.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN LANGFORD

ONE of the best known families in Barton County and one whose members have had a great deal to do with the development and upbuilding of the county, is that of Thornton Langford who is the father of the subject of this sketch and came here in 1877. He bought the southwest quarter of section 25 in Eureka township and up until the time of his death was actively engaged in farming. He died in 1900 and his death was keenly felt by the large circle of friends whose friendship he enjoyed. A. L. was born in Appanoose County, Iowa, October 9, 1862, and arrived in this county with his father when he was fifteen years of age. He was married in 1903 to Miss Emma Schultz whose parents are also old timers of the county, her father having been among the very first men to settle in the county. Mr. Langford farms all his own land and has a fine set of improvements. The residence contains five rooms in addition to closets, pantries, etc., and the barn is 24 by 40 feet in dimensions. The improvements are

situated amid beautiful surroundings and Mr. Langford has a most attractive country home. He has always taken an active part in the affairs of his township and has held the office of constable and other township offices. It is to such families as the Schultz and Langfords that this county was developed from an almost barren waste in the seventies to its present high state of cultivation and high standing among the best counties in the State of Kansas and made of it one of the most productive agricultural sections of the country. It is such men as the subject of this sketch that the work is being continued to the end that the future that was seen by their elders will be realized and fulfilled. Mr. Langford is an enterprising and progressive citizen and enjoys a wide acquaintance in all parts of the county. His long residence in the county has made him familiar with the conditions with which the farmers have to contend and his success is in a large measure due to the knowledge he has gained by practical work.

## SEVIER H. HEDRICK

ONE of the really old timers of Barton County still living on his old homestead is the subject of this sketch Sevier H. Hedrick. He was born in Preble County, Ohio, September 16, 1847. He came to Barton County in 1871 and took up a homestead near Heizer. It comprises the northeast quarter of section 6, Buffalo township. Mr. Hedrick has been married twice, his first wife having been Miss Lucy Parks of Illinois. To this union there was born one child, William, who is now 42 years of age and lives in Illinois. He was later married to Miss Maggie Chasteen and they are the parents of five children, as follows: Florence, 22 years of age is now

Mrs. Ed. Noffsinger and resides in Brown County, Kansas; Hallie, 19 years of age; May, 18 years of age; Edith, 16 years of age; Grenna, 12 years of age, all of whom live at home. Mr. Hedrick was actively engaged in farming until about a year ago but now superintends the work of renters. He has a nice set of improvements; the residence containing seven rooms in addition to closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 28 feet square and like the other buildings is well built and commodious. The home place is beautifully situated and is surrounded by a fine set of shade trees, a half acre of orchard altogether is one of the most attractive places in that section of the county.

Mr. Hedrick was the first trustee of Buffalo township and is one of those men who came here at a time when the buffalo were still roaming the prairies and it is due to such men as Mr. Hedrick that the county was developed and made one of the best in the State

of Kansas and it is due to their efforts that it is one of the most important agricultural sections of the entire country. Mr. Hedrick has always taken an active part in the public affairs of his county and is an enterprising and progressive citizen.

### WILLIAM CHRIST OTTE

OF the many young farmers in the county who are products of this county none better known than subject of this sketch, William Christ Otte who is now farming 200 acres of land in Buffalo township. He has been on this land for the past seven years and as he was born and raised in this county he has learned by experience the methods that will give the best results under the conditions that are found in this section of the county. He was born January 30, 1881 and is a son of William Otte who is mentioned in another part of this book. The elder Otte is one of the old timers of this county who came here in the early days and has seen this county grow from almost a barren waste to its present high state of cultivation. The younger Otte was married to Miss Georgia Miller in 1907. She is a daughter of Henry Miller who

will also be found mentioned in another part of this book. He also is one of the old timers who had so much to do with the upbuilding of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Otte are the parents of two children as follows: Walter who is four years of age and Wilmer who is two years of age. They occupy a neat residence of four rooms. The barn is 20 by 36 and it and all the outbuildings are well built and have plenty of room. The home place is surrounded by a grove of nice shade trees that add greatly to the home-like appearance of the place and altogether Mr. Otte has one of the most ideal country homes to be found in that section of the county. It is to such families as the Ottes and Millers that this county owes its high standing among the best counties of the State of Kansas and one of the best agricultural sections of the entire country.

### DANIEL GREEN BIRD



Farm Home of Daniel Green Bird—"Bird View Farm"

THOSE who read this volume will be struck with the nativity of the citizenship, no doubt, and note that the southern states rarely have a representative. The county's history has been forged by the sturdy

German-American, and by men from the middle, northern and western sections of the United States. Of course most nations are represented, and most states; but the southern gentleman is noticeable by his absence. He is

either clannish and prefers to herd by himself, has not forgotten the border ruffian days, or has harkened to the stories about a cold and cyclonic Kansas. We are pleased, therefore, to record the success of a native Virginian. A man hitherto unused to the rough life of the frontiersman.

Daniel Greene Bird was born near Jacksonville, Floyd County, Virginia, January 19th, 1849, and at an early age removed to Raleigh County, West Virginia. Returning to the Old Dominion he settled in Wythe County, twenty miles north from Wytheville. Shortly after his twenty-eighth birthday—on March 3rd, 1878—he arrived in Barton County, Kansas, determined to make a home for himself and posterity; or never to set foot on Virginia soil again. He selected a location thirteen miles west from Great Bend and there purchased his first quarter of land on payments from the Santa Fe Railway Company. Disastrous years followed and he was forced to forfeit his holdings. Buying again from the same parties in September, 1884, he contracted for three hundred and twenty acres, and paid fifteen hundred and sixty dollars, in payments as before. This time he was successful and paid out according to agreement; and at this date his home place contains seven hundred and twenty acres. Besides this he owns in the counties of Barton, Pawnee and Rush five separate tracts of land amounting to eighteen hundred and forty acres, or a total of twenty-five hundred and sixty acres. These various tracts are all well improved and in a high state of cultivation. They are stocked with the best farm implements procurable, and the buildings are new, modern, and of a size to comfortably house his numerous tenants, store the grain grown on the various farms, and stable the live stock bred and in service.

Mr. Bird is also a stockholder in the Citizens National Bank, Great Bend; Pawnee Rock Elevator Co., and the Independent Harvester Co., Plana, Illinois.

The home of Mr. Bird, thirteen miles northwest from Great Bend, is very attractive in appearance and supplies all modern comforts. It is surrounded with shade trees, grass plot and garden, and is all that a farmer's home should be. The combination dairy and pantry, through which cold sparkling water always flows, is the culmination of the dream of every housewife. Then there are barns, grain elevators, feeding lots, sheds and a garage, all of proportions sufficient to house the grain and care for the stock bred and in service on an immense farm.

Mr. Bird inherited a love for domestic animals and has bred, bought, fed and dealt in them for thirty years. At first he hoped that this branch of his business would supplement the earnings of the farm and help over some of the rough places, but latterly he has continued to handle them merely because he prefers to have them on the place so that he can admire their beauty and satisfy a fancy.

Miss Martha Ellen Lee and Daniel Greene Bird were married June 25th, 1884 in Barton County, and as a result nine children have been born. Three have passed from them by death; a son of twelve years being killed by lightning, and one of seventeen by drowning. Those living are: Anna May, Harry Clay, Elmer Joseph, Daniel Dee, Mary Frances and Ruth Allen. Mrs. Bird was born August 12th, 1859, in Knox County, Ohio, but is a member of and a close relation to the General Robert E. Lee family of Virginia, whose mother was a Custus and a near relative of Martha Washington.

## JULIUS BOTH

**"STONE BRIDGE HOMESTEAD,"** the home of Julius Both, fourteen miles west of Great Bend, takes its name from the first and only stone bridge built on Dry creek and was used as a lookout, or point of observation by Mr. Both at a time when he thought it was necessary to keep an eye on roving bands of Indians, and on the buffalo, antelope, deer, gray wolves and coyotes that infested the country in 1871. He came to the country in the spring of that year, and first worked for John Cook, Sr., and then engaged in hunting buffalo and other game for the first four or five years. In 1873 he entered his claim to a homestead, and that and later purchases make up the valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres included in his home farm. He owns another half section in Pawnee county, and both places are well improved and in a high state of cultivation.

Julius Both claims to be the first white settler in Clarence township, and had as neighbors Judge Morton who doctored the community, and D. M. Woodburn, who were between him and the county seat. His first acquired property was a half starved horse located from his perch in "lookout tree," and this served to transport the game which he killed, but was not sufficient to break the soil to be cultivated, and what corn that was planted was placed in holes made in the turf with a hatchet. The garden was prepared in this way and cultivated with improvised implements made from whatever would best stir or turn the soil. There was little cultivated the first five years, and Mr. Both, John Gruber and others hunted the plains and often went as far west as Dodge City. They got their supplies and mail from Russell and Ellsworth, Kansas, and were usually absent from home, leaving



the care of the family and little ones to the faithful wife. Her lot was not enviable, and the pioneer mothers of Barton County deserve great praise for their fortitude and devotion to their husbands and families.

Julius Both was born in the village of Linde, Germany, September 28th, 1844; served an apprenticeship as a miller, and followed the trade until coming to America in 1870. He first located at Fon Du Lac, Wisconsin, and



Farm Home of Julius Both in 1886



Present Farm Home of Julius Both

found work in a sash factory. In the spring of 1871 he came to Barton County. He married Miss Anna Baruth shortly before sailing from his home in Germany, and they are the parents of four children: Mrs. Matilda Merten, Mrs.

Mary Spies and Kate and Tina Both. The children all reside at home and assist their parents on the farm with the exception of Mrs. Merten, and with the grand children make up a happy and contented family.



## WILLIAM ESSMILLER

**T**HIRTY-TWO years has wrought great changes in the life of William Essmiller, and it is a pleasant task to record his success as a citizen of Barton County. He was born December 9, 1849, in the Province of Hanover, Germany, on a farm, and worked for his parents until coming to the United States in 1871. He first settled in LaCrosse County, Wisconsin, and worked as a farm hand until 1879, when he came to Barton County and made his home with Fred H. Miller, (a former school mate in the Old Country,) from whom he drew pay at the rate of \$15 per month. Finally he and his brother Deitrich inherited about \$2,000 from an estate in Germany and

Pawnee County, north of Rozel. These several tracts are all well improved and in cultivation, and are the choice bodies in their localities. The home farm is improved with a one story six room frame dwelling; a 36x66 barn with large hay loft and stalls for twenty horses; twenty-four milk cattle, and accommodation for twenty-four loose animals. The granary is 24x40 and there is a dairy and other small outbuildings. Wheat, corn and alfalfa are the principal crops grown, but stock breeding is fast taking root on this farm, and a herd of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle were in evidence, and numerous horses and mules of the best breeds for farm purposes. Mrs. Essmiller



Farm Home of William Essmiller

they formed a partnership under the name of Essmiller Brothers and bought railroad land. Their business was farming, but they bought, improved, sold and traded in lands when they had earned a surplus invested, and until a few years ago both families occupied the home on the D. Essmiller farm. Recently they have made a division of their holdings, and Wm. Essmiller owns his home farm, four miles west of Great Bend, which covers four hundred and eighty acres; eighty acres near Heizer, four hundred and eighty in Pawnee County, and a half interest in another section in

has her White Leghorn chickens and grows them for market, and in her model dairy makes fifty pounds of golden butter weekly to supply her city trade. She is a model housewife and has labored faithfully with her husband to achieve success.

William Essmiller and Miss Mary Nietfield, of Hanover, Germany, were married on September 12, 1882, in Barton County, Kansas, and they have one son, Robert H. Essmiller, who resides with his parents and assists in the management of the farms.

## HANS JURGENSEN

**A**MONG the many German-Americans who have made a success at farming in Barton County Hans Jurgensen has won his place, and is the proud owner of four hundred of as nice acres as there is to be found, twelve miles northwest of Great Bend. He has this all in a fine state of cultivation and highly improved, there being an imposing two story white frame residence to greet you as you enter the grounds and swing up the driveway, which is through waving meadows of alfalfa exuding sweet perfume. About the house is a large grass plot, and there are plants and

the day for there is a thankfulness overshadowing man, beast and fowl, if one can interpret the sighs of the weary work horses, the lowing of the kine, the laughter of childhood and the tunes whistled and sung by the farm help as they complete the days labors.

Hans Jurgensen was born in Germany on January 23rd, 1863, and came to the United States with his parents when six years of age, who located first on a farm twenty-five miles west of Nebraska City, Nebraska. He came to Barton County on December 24th, 1874, with his father, Marquardt Jurgensen, who home-



Farm Residence of Hans Jurgensen

shrubs and lofty trees forming the usual wind-break. The location is elevated and this building and the barns, elevator, granary, wind-mills, and other numerous outbuildings stand out prominently and seem to tower above others of the neighborhood. Here one can imagine the animation in the barn lots at night time, "when the lowing herds come home," and the numerous work animals are being unharnessed and fed; chickens and turkeys feeding for the night and the milking under way. It is then that the whole farm seems to rejoice and return thanks for the accomplishments of

steaded an eighty in section 28 and filed on eighty acres as a timber claim. In 1892 Hans began farming his own fields having purchased a quarter section for \$2,100. In 1898 he added another eighty, paying for it \$1,600, and at the death of his father he inherited one hundred and sixty acres. On March 22nd, 1886, he was married to Miss Josephine Burgdorf, of Buffalo township, and six children have been born, all of whom are at home with their parents: August William Christian, 24; Edward John, 22; Fred Henry, 21; Anna Dorothy, 19; Ida Mary, 17, and William Marquardt, 15.

## GEORGE ADAM GEIL

**I**T has always been a pleasure to trace the pen picture of a really successful man in any calling, and when that life has been passed close to nature the pleasure is ten fold. Trees, plants and flowers all serve a purpose and are beautiful beyond comparison,

but growing crops have an added commercial attraction which have enchanted since time began. They people a land and sustain life, and the influence of the tiller is only gaged by the number of bushels produced. If that be true George A. Geil's influence is far reaching,

because he owns and cultivates eight hundred acres in Barton, Pawnee and Ford counties, and at harvest time his granaries are filled to overflowing. That, in substance, is the result of thirty-three years of continued effort farming on the plains of Kansas.

George A. Geil is a native of Iowa and came to Barton County in the spring of 1878 a poor man, and for some years rented the land he farmed. Then he bought railroad land at a low price and on long time, but failing to make the payments it reverted to the original owners. Then the Santa Fe Railway Company added a few dollars to the price and resold him the land, and that time he made good and paid according to contract. He now owns the

capable of housing much hay and grain, and the stabling capacity must be ample for the farm. This is painted the usual bright red cast and seems to light up and enliven the scene. The soil is good and the farm is in a high state of cultivation.

George A. Geil was born August 27th, 1857, near Martinsburg, Wapello County, Iowa. He was married on December 13, 1905, to Miss Minnie Schroeder, of Cedar County, Iowa. They have three bright little boys: Louis Jacob, 4 years of age; Herold Henry, 3 and Elmer Herman, 2.

The mother, Mrs. Louise Geil, wife of Jacob Geil, deceased, makes her home with her son. She was born in Germany, October 26th,



Farm Residence of George Adam Geil—"Dry Creek Stock Farm"

two hundred and forty on which he resides, fourteen miles west from Great Bend; eighty acres six miles west from Great Bend; one hundred and sixty in Pawnee County; one hundred and sixty midway between Rush Center and Rozel, and one hundred and seventy-five acres near Spearville, in Ford County. All these several tracts are in cultivation and have good improvements.

The improvements at the home farm are a very attractive eight room cottage, surrounded by a neat lawn and towering forest trees. It is painted a cast of gray and with its green surroundings looks cool and inviting on a sultry day. The barn is a large, roomy affair

1833, and is seventy-eight years of age. She came to Kansas with her husband and eight children, George Adam, Andrew and Mrs. Katie LeRoy in 1878, Mrs. Henry Schroeder being born in Kansas and passed through all the rough periods of the formative stage of the country. She is bright, strong and healthy and one can hardly imagine her age so advanced. Her husband, Jacob Geil, died December 11th, 1907, and lies buried in the Lutheran cemetery near the farm of his son. She was the mother of nine children in all, four boys and five girls. One boy died in infancy and a boy and three girls died from diphtheria the second year after coming to Kansas.

## WILLIAM WERHAHN

**A**MONG the large planters and property owners of Barton County William Werhahn deservedly takes his place, and although not a native born Kansan he is so much a Barton County product that he remembers little prior to his boyhood here. He was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, November 20th, 1875; came to America the spring of 1882 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Werhahn of Great Bend, and they settled first near Grinnell, Iowa, on a farm. They also lived in Pouche and Marshall coun-

ties, Iowa, for about four years, and then came to Kansas, settling permanently in Pawnee Rock township, Barton County. William Werhahn was then but eleven years old. He attended the public schools of the district, chased rabbits, hunted game on the open prairie, broke bucking broncos and helped his father on the farm. His days were passed in the open and the Dutchman's son soon became a full fledged Kansas kid, with all his aims and desires. It is not wonderful then that he was early bitten by the "land-grabbing" microbe, and soon determined to own and farm

his share of the face of the earth. When married and settled he bought a quarter section from his father; later he bought one hundred and sixty acres from Peter Dirks, and still later he rented two hundred and eighty acres adjoining, and today farms a total of six hundred acres. During the time he also acquired by purchase three hundred and twenty acres near Greensburg, Kiowa County, and three hundred and twenty near Offerle. These two last named tracts are improved and rented, and his total holdings in fee are nine hundred



Farm Home of William Werhahn

ties, Iowa, for about four years, and then came to Kansas, settling permanently in Pawnee Rock township, Barton County. William Werhahn was then but eleven years old. He attended the public schools of the district, chased rabbits, hunted game on the open prairie, broke bucking broncos and helped his father on the farm. His days were passed in the open and the Dutchman's son soon became a full fledged Kansas kid, with all his aims and desires. It is not wonderful then that he was early bitten by the "land-grabbing" microbe, and soon determined to own and farm

and sixty acres of as fine land as there is in the state. His residence is thirteen and one-half miles west of Great Bend, and the improvements are a two story white frame house, a 22x66x16 red frame barn, having stalls for eighteen horses and twenty cattle. Then there are other small buildings, sheds and numerous windmills, with a nice grove surrounding all.

William Werhahn and Miss Bertha Fleske, of Wausau, Wisconsin, were married on February 1st, 1905, and they have been blessed with three interesting children: Bertha, 6; Hilda, 4 and Martha, 3.

## "GOLDEN GRAIN FARM"

**"G**OLDEN GRAIN FARM," the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Drehle, is six miles west of Great Bend, and it has been properly named, because it was the intention of the owners to honor for all time the golden cereal that has made the name of Barton County famous wherever wheat producers

are in use. This is the "banner county," and it is Mr. Drehle's intention to make his the "banner farm," and if one can judge from the character of cultivation the soil is getting this season his future crops will tax some of his neighbors to beat. He is a good and successful farmer, as his fields and granaries both



prove, and when he has been a resident of the county for twenty-five years his history, if written then, will appear just as miraculous in a financial way as do some of the others at this date.

Henry Drehle was born on May 1, 1869, and has been a farmer all his life. His first venture at farming was in Carroll County, Mo.,

ing seven rooms, which is high above ground, enclosed by a neat fence in which there are a number of forest trees, shrubs, plants and flowers. The barn is 32x50, is well arranged, and accommodates large quantities of hay and has many stalls; and there is a granary and other necessary buildings, besides several windmills and a young orchard. These build-



Farm Residence of Henry Drehle

and he remained there until 1900, when he removed his family to Barton County, Kansas, and rented land for three years. In 1903 he bought the one hundred and sixty acres where he now resides, and that, and a quarter that is leased, make up the three hundred and twenty that is cultivated. The improvements consist of a modern one story frame cottage contain-

ings are all new, beautifully painted, and from the roadway present a scene of comfort and thrift.

Henry Drehle and Miss Ellen Stork, of Carroll County, Mo., were married in February, 1896, and they have five very interesting living children, viz: Willie, 14; Katie, 12; George, 10; Annie, 6 and Charlie, 3.

## MRS. KATIE LEROY

THE struggle and privations of earlier days on the farm in Barton County were still fresh in her memory when Mrs. Katie LeRoy was left a widow, in 1899, with six dependent boys, the oldest being about twelve. But she has proven that she was equal to the task of rearing them and managing her farms at the same time by the condition of both; for the boys are as fine, healthy and gentlemanly a bunch of youngsters as one meets any day, and the fields are in a high state of cultivation. It is true that some of these boys are young gentlemen now, and all are able to do a man's work on the place; but this was not always so, and the mind that

controlled them and the hand that guided deserves to be revered above all others. Women farmers are rare and deserve great praise when unhampered by other ties, but when we find one who has carried a double burden through to success we feel that all should worship at her shrine and say "well done." That she has made a great success is proven by the fact that she owns one hundred and sixty acres where she resides, eight miles west of Great Bend, and another tract of eighty acres one and one-half miles south and six and one-half miles west of the same city. Both of these tracts are improved and under cultivation, and the home farm has a large frame

residence, surrounded by a beautiful grove of forest trees, a large barn that will house the stock of the farm, and numerous other buildings that have their uses on a place like this. The sons, one and all, must follow the lead taken by their mother and must all be rustlers

Phillip O. LeRoy and Miss Katie Geil were married in Barton County, March 20th, 1896, and Mr. LeRoy died January 31st, 1899, and lies buried in the Lutheran cemetery, near the farm of George A. Geil in the western part of the county. Mrs. Katie LeRoy is the daugh-



Farm Home of Mrs. Katie LeRoy

born, because the farm looks as well tilled as any of the adjoining fields, and we saw the very best span of young mules, bred and broken on this farm, that has been produced in the county in years.

ter of Jacob and Louise Geil, who came to Barton County in May, 1878, and settled in the western part of the county. She is the mother of six boys: Andrew, George, Harry, Jacob and Ray and Roy, the latter two being twins.

## HERMAN TAMMEN

THE Ideal Farm," the home of Herman and Augusta Neese Tammen, thirteen miles west of Great Bend, covers three hundred and twenty acres of the best farm land in Barton County. The soil was naturally rich, but after nineteen years of constant effort it has been brought to such a high state of improvement that it is now one of show places of the county. The chief feature to attract is a wall-like grove of locust and box elder which surround and cover five acres about the residence and effectually isolates it. But if you enter the driveway, beneath a bower of overhanging bows, a court and grass plot meets the view in the center. A one-story, eight room frame residence, setting high and halconied, stands to the right. On the left stands a 32x54 barn and an 18x50 shed and an 8,000 bushels capacity elevator and good Fairbanks scales. To the rear of these is the

orchard. In front is the garage, chicken houses, dairy and other buildings. Cement walks lead to these, and the well kept lawn is relieved by plants and flowers. The deep shade and ever changing natural tints are relieved by the tastefully painted buildings and the flowering plants. An engine supplies water distributed through the house and other buildings, and an electric dynamo lights them and supplies the power to propel a separator, churns and washing machine. A 10 horse power engine is used to elevate the grain and to clean and grind the feed of the farm. The house is furnished both tastefully and elegantly and its hospitality is dispensed by a model housewife. In fact there is nothing cheap about the farm or premises and it is well named, "The Ideal Farm."

Herman Tammen was born September 2, 1875, in Hanover Province, Germany, and in

1892, when 16 years of age, came to America and his education was acquired in the mother country, with a few terms in our public schools. His parents died when he was a

Pawnee county, and a half section in Ford.

Herman Tammen and Miss Augusta Louisa Mary Neese were married on October 28, 1898, at the brides home in Rush County. They have



Farm Residence of Herman Tammen

small boy. He soon purchased two hundred and forty acres of land, and later a tract of eighty acres more and these make up the resident farm. Besides this he owns a section in

been blessed with five lovely children: Minnie Christina Mary, 9; Harry Conrad, 8; Hilda Frances, 6; Rosa Louisa, 4, and Herman August, 2.

### “GREENWOOD FARM”

THE “Greenwood Farm,” the country home of Chris and Mary Johnson, four and one-half miles west of Great Bend, is one of the best improved farms along the road on which the residence fronts. The house is one and one-half story frame containing ten rooms; and the barn is 32x42, and has mow and stable room for all animals bred and in service on the farm. Then there are other necessary outbuildings, windmills, an artificial lake, an orchard, and a fine grove of forest trees. This farm was not purchased until 1894, and has not been in cultivation as long as some others, but the improvements are all of a substantial character, and the cultivation of the fields stamps Mr. Johnson as a painstaking farmer and one sure to succeed in

his chosen calling. The fencing is in a good condition and everything about the premises is neat and tidy.

Chris Johnson was born on October 22nd, 1859, in Denmark, and came to America in 1878, when nineteen years of age. He first landed in New York and from there went into Illinois, where he secured work making tile to drain the low lands of several counties. His headquarters were in Champaign County until March 12th, 1884, when he came to Barton County, Kansas. At first he rented the McBride farm, three miles west of Great Bend, and put in a crop and then on February 13th, 1885, married Miss Mary Hanson, of Jackson, Kansas. They have been blessed with five children: Herman O., 23; Gilbert M., 21; Vic-

tor D., 18; Alexander H., 11, and Mary Christina, 9.

The farm owned by Mr. Johnson covers one hundred and sixty acres and cost \$1,500 in 1894, but he rents an adjoining quarter and

cultivates three hundred and twenty acres. This makes a nice farm, and as he and his family are economical and good workers it is expected that they will be among the large future land owners of Barton County.



Farm Home of Chris Johnson

### HENRY WITTE

**H**ENRY WITTE was born December 4th, 1842, in the Province of Hanover, Germany, and is in his sixty-ninth year. He emigrated to America in the spring of



Henry Witte at the Age of Twenty-five  
1867, when twenty-four years of age; and

located first in LaCrosse County, Wisconsin, where he was told of the great possibilities of the country being reclaimed from the desert in Kansas. He went, however, to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and in three or four years returned to Wisconsin where he remained until the spring of 1880, when he came to Barton County, Kansas. He was at first a renter of land in the neighborhood of his present home, two and one-half miles south of Heizer, but finally purchased a half section of land from the Santa Fe railway company, paying five or six dollars per acre, in payments which run from three to eleven years. He was married on February 22, 1884, to Miss Sophia D. Meyer of LaCrosse County, Wisconsin, and of this union was born eight children. A few years since he separated from his wife and family, deeding to them the south eighty, and retaining the north half. He has since built a house, barn and other buildings on his portion and has it in a fine state of cultivation.

During his residence in Barton County he has passed through several disastrous years, but has been able to improve both the north and south halves of his original quarter in a substantial manner. Taking the circumstances into account Mr. Witte's success has been phenomenal, and could only have been possible on land as productive as that which he owns.



## FRANCIS SPANIOL

IT has always been a saying, "That the man who drinks from a Kansas stream will later return," and this trite proverb has proven true in the instance of Frank Spaniol, who, in 1895, was a resident of Reno County for two seasons, but, on account of crop failures, returned to his former home in Illinois thoroughly disgusted with Kansas, and Kansas farming. He had, however, "drank of the stream," and after a nine years struggle with the Kansas microbe he returned to this state and has since made his home five miles

tract; but at the instance of his father he came to Reno County, Kansas in 1895 and attempted to make a home in this state. After two unsuccessful crop seasons he decided he had enough of this poverty stricken state and returned to his old home and farm. The next year after he left this state crop conditions changed for the better and the Kansas granaries would hardly hold the harvests. Then he saw his mistake and on April 1, 1906, came to Barton County and purchased the hundred and sixty acres on which he lives. This is in a high state of cultivation and is improved



Farm Residence of Francis Spaniol

west of Great Bend. As he is now well satisfied with conditions in his adopted state we give his history.

Francis (Frank) Spaniol was born August 27, 1870, on a farm in Livingston County, Illinois, and was educated in the public schools of that state. He grew to manhood there and became a successful farmer under the instruction of his father, and at his death inherited eighty acres of choice land near Planagan, Illinois. This he still owns; has it in a high state of cultivation and rented to a tenant. In 1892 he was married and began farming this

with a six room frame cottage, a good barn, granary and other out buildings. He rents an adjoining quarter and farms 320 acres. There is a young orchard and a nice grove of forest trees surrounding the home that attracts and screens the home from the roadway.

Francis Spaniol and Miss Lena Gerdson, of Livingston County, Illinois, were united in marriage on April 19, 1892, and this union has been blessed with two children: Katherine Mary, 18, Alfred Adam, 14. They are both at home and gladden "Fruit Farm," the name recently given their new Kansas home.

## FREDERICK HENRY WOLF

"GOLDEN CEREAL FARM," the home of Frederick Henry and Lizzie Wagner Wolf, is located five and one-half miles west from Great Bend, and is so named because the soil has been proven to be so well adapted to growing the "golden cereal" that

has made the county so famous as a wheat grower. It contains four hundred acres of as fertile soil as there is in Buffalo township, or in fact in the whole of Kansas. It is improved with a story and a half frame residence with six large airy rooms; a large 40x80 barn, gran-

ary and other outbuildings, and these are so located that they show to the best advantage. The crops are corn, Kaffir corn, wheat, alfalfa and native grasses, and is adapted to growing these and other crops and the breeding of horses, mules, cattle, hogs and poultry. Stock and poultry are bred to a limited extent, but

an industrious husbandman, and the granaries that his labor has been rewarded.

Frederick H. Wolf was born on September 25th, 1869, in Madison County, Illinois, and was married to Miss Lizzie Wagner of Nerborne, Carrollton, County, Mo., on September 24th, 1893. They have one interesting child



Farm Home of Frederick Henry Wolf

wheat—the staple crop of this section—is king of this farm and covers the major portion of the fields. Corn and wheat are the crops most grown in Illinois, where Mr. Wolf grew to manhood, and it was natural that he should attempt them here where they grow best of all crops, and with less labor than most. The fields, however, show the constant effort of

of ten, Tillie Annie Mary, who gladdens their hearts and brings sunshine to the home. They came to Barton County in the fall of 1901, bought the four hundred acres on which they reside, and are classed among the most substantial and most highly respected citizens of the county.

## THOMAS BUTLER JOHNSON

THE hundred and sixty acres, eight miles west of Great Bend, which is the farm of Thomas Butler Johnson, has been christened "Pleasant View Farm," because it lies in a spot that affords a fine view of the surrounding country. It was first the home of his parents, John W. and Rosanna Johnson, who in 1874 homesteaded eighty acres of this tract, and bought an additional eighty. They came to Barton County, Kansas, in 1874 from Madison County, Iowa, when Thomas B. was but three years of age; and the father, John W. Johnson, was born in Indiana March 13, 1835, and died February 15th, 1902; and the mother, Rosanna Johnson, was born in Pennsylvania in 1836 and died November 4th, 1906.

Both are buried in the Everett cemetery, eight miles west of Great Bend. They were survived by two children, viz: Franklin Henry and Thomas Butler Johnson. The interests of these heirs were purchased by Thomas B. Johnson, who is now the sole owner, and it appears to be a valuable property. It is well improved and in a high state of cultivation. The residence is a story and a half frame, with six airy rooms. The barn is large and will accommodate much hay and many farm animals; and there is a combined granary and buggy shed; other out buildings, windmills, etc.

Thomas Butler Johnson was born on January 19th, 1872, and was married to Miss Myrtle

Ivo Showers, of Grundy County, Mo., on November 22nd, 1899. They have been the parents of four children, two of whom are living: Lillie Belle 9, and Mabel Fern 7.

Mr. Johnson owns twenty lots in College Grove Addition to Great Bend and has other interests in the county.



Farm Home of Thomas Butler Johnson

## WILLIAM MULL

THE life story of William Mull who owns a four hundred and eighty acre farm ten miles southwest of Great Bend, deserves a prominent place in the History of Barton County, because of the success he has made of life. He was born July 4, 1872, in Staunton, Illinois, his father's death occurring shortly after. His mother, Mrs. Louisa Mull, married Frederick Viehl and he came with them to Barton County, Kansas, arriving on September 10, 1878. His step-father homesteaded eighty acres, but died on August 17, 1895, the mother also died in October, 1900. Their real and personal property was heavily mortgaged and was sold to pay their debts, and at twenty-three William Mull faced the world without credit or money. He had, however, in the fall of 1892, begun farming on rented land with a part of his step-father's mortgaged horses and implements, and to hold them for use paid interest as high as 18 per cent to 24 per cent. The period between 1893 and 1896 were disastrous and all was lost or paid out on debts; but in 1897 a crop was made and he purchased his first hundred and sixty acres, which is a part of his present farm. Later he bought three hundred and twenty acres adjoining and farms four hundred and eighty acres, the equal of any in the county. He has this improved

with a two story frame residence containing eleven rooms; a very attractive barn 32x38, with large hay loft and stalls for sixteen horses; an elevator with capacity of 10,000 bushels, and sundry other outbuildings. He cultivates wheat and corn exclusively, and breeds only a limited number of horses, cattle and hogs for his own needs; but he makes every acre a productive one and the hard times of the '90's seems far back in the distance. It took, however, great will power and fortitude to pass that period, and he learned lessons then that will last for all time.

William Mull and Miss Anna Puttner, of Olmitz, Kansas, were married on November 10, 1895, and they have been blessed by five children: John Frederick, 15; Mary Louisa, 13; William Joseph, 9; Elmer, 5, and Lillie Josephine, 2.

William Mull is not old and the boys call him "Bill," and for this reason he loves "the whole Bill family." Sometimes he becomes reminiscent and tells things happening in the past. When we met him Bill Townsley was in his mind, and for fear that Bill might fail to mention the circumstance in his own biography, wants it known that Will Townsley worked for him in the harvest of 1897; and that the pay was 75 cents per day. He labored

faithfully for two days, but on the third quit at noon. Going to town he found his parents had left for Denver, and followed, but on arriving there he failed to make connection with the family purse and became stranded in a strange city. How he got home is the best treasured joke of Bill Mull's life, for a month

after harvest Bill Townsley and a centenarian burro drew up in a ramshackle cart at the gate; collected \$1.87½ and departed for town. When "Bill" denies and "Bill" affirms, it is hard for a historian to record it as a positive fact. Ask "Bill."

## CHRISTIAN S. SCHULTZ

**T**HE life story of Christian S. Schultz, of "Upland Farm," six miles north of Pawnee Rock, stamps him as more enterprising and skilful than the average immigrant from Poland, West Russia, who came with him in 1875, and settled the Mennonite colony one mile east of Dundee. He was

In 1874 he came to America and worked for one year in a wagon factory in Latonia, Ohio, and in 1875 came to Barton County with neighbors from the section of his birth place and became a member of the settlement near Dundee. At that date he was thirty-three years of age and by strict economy had saved from



Farm Home of Christian S. Schultz

born on March 11, 1842, on a farm in Russia-Poland, attended school for about one month and at the age of fifteen left his home for South Russia. He worked for two years on a farm to accumulate enough to clothe himself for the next three years, and then apprenticed himself to a manufacturer and learned to be a blacksmith and wheelwright. This took three years and he worked for his board; but in 1862 he began drawing pay, and this was increased from time to time during the next twelve years with the factory, until he became one of their very best workmen and the best paid. During this time he built a carriage for the firm which took first prize in competition with the builders of other nations at the Worlds Fair held in St. Petersburg in 1871.

his earnings about \$3,000, and with this he bought a quarter section for the use of the colony; built the best house in the settlement, and assisted others less fortunate to make their start in this new world. When this colony disbanded he purchased the hundred and sixty acres called "Upland Farm," and this he has improved with a large two story frame, with nine large rooms, a large barn and other outbuildings, and it is one of the best stocked and best cultivated tracts of the neighborhood. He also owns another quarter in Pawnee Rock township; a quarter in Liberty township and another near Greensburg, Kansas, a total of six hundred and forty acres.

One year after his arrival in this country Christian S. Schultz and Miss Lena Rudiger,



of Russia-Poland, were married in Barton County, Kansas, and to them fourteen children were born, twelve of whom survive. They are: Samuel, C., Henry and Abram Schultz and Mrs. Lizzie Dirks, all of Pawnee Rock township; Mrs. Eva Base and Mary Richert, near Greensburg; Mrs. Minnie Boese, Dundee; Mrs. Susan Smith, Pawnee County; Miss Tena Schultz, a nurse in a hospital at

Newton, and Peter, Lena and Martha Schultz, who reside at home.

Mrs. Lena Rudiger Schultz died on March 29, 1904, and lies buried in the Dundee cemetery, mourned by her husband and children and a large circle of neighbors and friends by whom she was loved and respected after many years of association in this new land.

## JOHN C. BAUER

HOME-MAKING has been the sentiment that has peopled the plains of Kansas and settled its towns and cities, and to this one sentiment is due the present prosperous condition of a great state. It has been fostered by a generous government and state; assisted by the great railway and the press, and today is the ruling passion in the breast of every true house-holder. It fired the ambition of the early pioneer and sustained his frail arm and weak body until he performed herculean feats in taming an unwilling soil until it gave up its treasures in blossoms and grain. The first has made the land worth living in and the last sustained life and provided a heritage for coming generations. It was this sentiment that induced Mr. and Mrs. John C. Bauer, three and one-half miles northeast of Pawnee Rock, to come to Barton County, Kansas, endure the privations of the pioneer days and hold steadfastly to this one sentiment when there appeared no hope of accomplishing their cherished dream. But pluck and energy prevailed and today they own one of the neatest homes in the entire county, and a half section of its best land.

John C. Bauer was born on November 16, 1837, in the Province of Bavaria, Germany, and in 1847 came to America with his parents, who remained in New York City for nine months and then permanently settled at Cincinnati, Ohio. He was educated in the public schools of that city, and learned the trade of boilermaker, and followed that trade in some of the largest works of that city until January, 1878, when he came to Barton County. He at first bought eighty acres of railroad land and entered a timber claim of eighty acres; and then in 1885 bought an additional quarter section. On this he has built a neat cottage with six rooms; a good barn, granary and other outbuildings; planted trees and put the whole in the highest possible state of cultivation.

John C. Bauer was married on October 22, 1860, to Miss Margaret Bauer of Cincinnati, O., and they have four living children: John G. Bauer, Radium, Kansas; Mrs. Anna Shafer, Sterling, Kansas; Mrs. Lena Hartman, Morrel, Ohio and Robert L. Bauer of Pawnee Rock township.

## JOHN LILE

AMONG the pioneer citizens of Barton County, John Lile, who lives two and one-half miles west of Dundee, may be classed, because it was on May 2, 1872, that he first settled in the county on a homestead entered in the neighborhood of his present home. At that period he says he was not favorably impressed with the locality as a farming locality; but as he was a young man then, and game was plentiful on the plains he considered it wise to set up a home. Buffalo, antelope and other wild game was in abundant and he at first made good wages by following the chase, and he killed and skinned buffalo for a number of years and sold the meat and hides. In this business he became acquainted with most of the old timers of the early days, but hunted most with Newt Smith, of Pawnee Rock, Judge Moron, (deceased,) and George Lile, a brother who died some

years ago. They had great sport and often went as far west as Dodge City on their trips. By that means he was permitted to see that frontier town when it was passing through its toughest period, and if he would he could recount some thrilling encounters between some of the bad men of that day. When the buffalo got scarce he gave his time to farming with about the same result as others of his section; but after a number of bad crop years sold his homestead for a small price and has rented the land since farmed. At present he is a tenant of his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Gilbert, and at seventy-nine years of age is able to do most of the work. His wife is also well preserved and has been a true helpmeet during a life of exposure on the plains.

John Lile was born December 11, 1832, in Adams County, Illinois, and grew to manhood on a farm. He married Miss Evaline Duff, of

Adams County, Illinois on October 10, 1861, and they have been the parents of eight children. Six are still living, as follows: Albert Lile, Pawnee Rock; Mrs. Ida Smith, Pawnee Rock; Wm. Henry Lile, near Pawnee Rock; Mrs. Sarah Gilbert, Pawnee Rock; Harry N. Lile, near Pawnee Rock and Mrs. Ada Gano, of Hutchinson, Kansas.

Mr. Lile is at this time a great believer in the wonderful productiveness of the soil of

Barton County, but when he first came here he considered it of little agricultural value. Grass, trees or vegetation could hardly be coaxed to grow, and the soil was so hard that the rain would not penetrate the earth. His testimony is that cultivation made the seasons and the crops that afterward came, and that a great debt is due those who come first and persisted until the present conditions prevailed.

## THE KEENAN ESTATE

THE family of Thomas and Mary Malia Keenan, who located a homestead six miles southwest of Great Bend, are probably as well and favorably known as any in Barton County. They were the first to show their confidence in the soil by building the best country residence in the county—a two story frame with ten rooms—and otherwise im-

proving a farm of five hundred and forty acres. This was built by Luther Frost, one of the first builders to locate in Great Bend, and stands today as a monument to his skill.

Thomas Keenan, sr., was born in Ireland on February 1, 1834, and came to the United States in 1861, marrying Miss Mary Malia, of Lowell, Mass., in March, 1871. They first made their home in Massachusetts, but later moved to Utica, Mo. While in the last named state Mr. Keenan found work in the construction department of a railway and became proficient as a builder; and when he came to Barton County, Kansas, in the fall of 1872, he soon found employment with the Santa Fe system, which was then building westward

also died on April 30, 1910. They were the parents of ten children: John Keenan, who died July 23, 1888; James Keenan, of Grove, Arizona; Mrs. Ellen Nally, San Francisco, Calif.; Frank Keenan, Kansas City; Martin Keenan, near Heizer; Thomas B. Keenan, who died April 7, 1906; Miss Mary Keenan, Michael James Keenan, Miss Kathleen C. Keenan and William Patrick Keenan.

Since the death of the parents the estate has been divided and the home farm reduced to two hundred and forty acres. This has been named "Keenancroft," and is owned by Miss Mary, Miss Kathleen C., and William P. Keenan; the latter being in charge of the farm. The residence and surroundings have grown



more beautiful with the years, and the grove of forest trees is very inviting. A new barn 32x36 has just taken the place of one destroyed by fire, and some granaries, machine sheds, etc., built, which adds to the conveniences of

the place. It is provided with all late day implements and the better grades of stock, and continues to hold its place among the best tilled farms of Barton County.

### SAMUEL C. SCHULTZ

**S**AMUEL C. AND LIZZIE SCHULTZ, who have named their farm in Liberty township, four miles northwest of Dundee, and ten miles southwest of Great Bend, "Fairhaven," are among the younger generation of farmers in this county. Mr. Schultz is the

there are enough shrubs and plants within the paled yard to make the place very inviting. The barn, granaries, automobile garage, and various other outbuildings are all new, commodious and in fine condition, and make the farm present a very substantial and prosper-



Farm Residence of Samuel C. Schultz

eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian S. Schultz of Pawnee Rock township, and was born on July 12, 1876. The privations of his earlier years were such as to make him learn the value of money and the results to be obtained by hard work, and these two characteristics are stamped on every feature of his surroundings. He owns in fee simple one hundred and sixty acres of as fine farm land as there is in Barton County, and rents one hundred and forty adjoining. His farm, therefore, covers three hundred acres, and is in the highest possible state of cultivation. His residence is a two story frame containing ten large airy rooms. It is surrounded by numerous forest trees and a young orchard, and

ous condition. Mr. Schultz also owns three acres near the town of Dundee and has just built thereon a good four room cottage for rent to a tenant.

On February 13, 1898, when the prospects for crops were about the same as they had been for the past five years—total failures—Samuel C. Schultz and Miss Lizzie Unruh, of Lone Tree township, McPherson County, Kansas, were married, and the two went to farming for themselves. That they have succeeded is proven both by their surroundings and by the five handsome children of which they are the parents: Lena, 13; Clara, 12; Edward, 10; Lincoln, 8 and Ella, 7.

## HENRY C. SCHULTZ

WHEN Howard Paine, the poet-diplomat, wrote "Home, Sweet Home," he was exiled far from his native land and the comforts of home. Sick and near death he gave his soul to a song that is sung and cherished in all lands, and its influence

on a hill that it may be seen from afar. It is painted white and enclosed by a fence, impaling plants, shrubs and flowers. The barn, granary, dairy and other buildings add to the effect and complete a picture of one of the most attractive residences in the county.



Farm Residence of Henry C. Schultz

is worldwide. Until recently this simple song was his only monument; but before it all nations bowed and by example made their home-life more endurable. When this song was written Kansas was a plain over which buffalo roamed; but when settlement came and good crops with it the home sentiment took root and today there is a strife between the resident farmers to see who can make their home the most attractive. Henry C. Schultz, of "Hillcrest Farm," five and one-half miles north of Pawnee Rock, has been most fortunate in his effort to beautify his hundred and sixty acres. His residence, a two story frame, with nine rooms and a basement, is perched

Henry C. Schultz was born on July 15th, 1877, in Pawnee Rock township, Barton County, and has lived close to nature all his life. He was educated in the public schools of his district and assisted his parents on their farm. On February 23rd, 1897, he was married to Miss Effie Dirks, of Barton County, and they have been blessed with three children: Lorena, 12; Dorris, 9 and Bert 6.

He purchased his farm on April 12, 1904, and began his improvements, and today has one of the choice tracts in his vicinity. The soil is very rich and productive, and when one looks over his fields it is easy to see that he is a painstaking farmer.

## ANDREW J. DECKERT

THE man who can pay 36 per cent interest on borrowed money, through a period of hard times and poor crop years is bound to come out on top. That sort of perseverance tells shortly and plainly how and why Andrew J. Deckert of "Plainview Farm," six miles north of Pawnee Rock and 15 miles southwest of the county seat has amassed the

comfortable fortune that he possesses. Andrew J. Deckert was born January 13, 1865, in Russian-Poland, and while only a baby his father died. His mother married Peter H. Dirks and Andrew Deckert was eight years of age when he came to this county with his mother and step-father in the winter of 1863. The family located on the timber claim of 160



acres on section 6, two and one-half miles northwest of Dundee, but now live ten miles southwest of Great Bend.

Andrew started out for himself when he became of age and on November 18, 1886 was married to Miss Susan Boese of Pawnee Rock township. Ten children were born to the

union: Minnie who married Henry Jantzen and Anna who married Louis Jantzen, both of Pawnee County. The other children live at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Deckert started in 1886 with nothing and it wasn't long until they thought they had even less than that. They rented



Farm Home of Andrew J. Deckert

land at first and while crops were of varying yields managed to get along. Then in 1891 when he had saved \$1,000, he bought a farm and made this as a payment on the same. There were four years of bad crops and he lost the entire payment. Undaunted he went ahead, paid 36 per cent interest on borrowed money and in 1896 paid out on a new contract which he had made for farm land. He now owns 320 acres of land in section 7, the home place, 160 acres over in section 8 and 160 acres in Pawnee County. The home place is

one of the modernly improved farms of the county and is fixed up in the best of shape. The house is a one and a half story structure, containing 11 rooms, the upper story being arranged with dormer windows in the gables which give the house a good appearance and leaves plenty of room. There are large barns and other buildings and one of the chief buildings of interest on the farm is a large elevator, which houses 9,000 bushels of grain.

## FRED TRAUER

ONE and one-half miles south of Heizer, Barton County, Kansas, is the one hundred and sixty acre tract of Fred Trauer, and it is as pretty a piece of tillable land as one would care to farm. It contains a small orchard and is planted with wheat and corn. He purchased the place in 1898, it formerly having been the homestead of A. M. Bart. It is nicely fenced and divided into fields, and is in a high state of cultivation; but the buildings are those purchased with the farm and are hardly as good as he would like and it is

his intention to replace them with more modern structures at no distant day.

Fred Trauer was born on November 1, 1866, in Holland, Germany, and his parents emigrated to the United States in 1868 and settled in Dearborn County, Indiana, and in 1878, when he was twelve years of age, they came to Barton County, Kansas. He was educated in the public schools and assisted his parents on the farm until he was a man in stature, and then he became a renter on his own account and farmed for several years; or

until 1898, when he bought the quarter section on which he lives. The period between 1893 to 1897, when he was struggling to make enough on the rented land to make a first payment on land he might purchase he recalls with many shakes of the head, because that was the saddest period of his entire life and his greatest struggle.

Fred Trauer and Miss Matilda Burgorf were married on September 16, 1897, and they are the parents of six children, to-wit: Betta,

12; Louis, 11, Lena, 9; Albert, 6, Edna, 4 and Freddie, 2.

Mrs. Matilda Trauer is the third child of August and Caroline Burgdorf, who settled in the county, two and one-half miles south of Heizer, about 1872. They drove overland from Cape Geradeau County, Mo., and on the way fell in with the teams of E. L. Chapman, who was enroute with his family to make their home in this county. Mr. Burgdorf died in 1882, leaving a widow and six children who are still residents of the county.

## WILLIAM JAMES FEE

TO attempt the biography of William James Fee in the space at command would be impossible, because he has probably lived more in his allotted time than most of the resident farmers of Barton County. He was born June 16th, 1838, on a farm near Laurel, Clearmont County, Ohio, and in 1859, when twenty-one years of age, was attracted by the gold excitement in California, and decided that that was the shortest route to attain both fortune and fame among those with whom he had grown to manhood. An expedition was fitting out in Omaha, Nebraska, to cross the plains by ox teams via the Northern Platte route, and this he and his companions joined and consumed six weary months in the journey. The California-Oregon trail was conceded to be a favorable passway, but those who made the trip recount many hardships and the written history of that time proves that those who made the trip possessed stout hearts. In haying time Honey Lake Valley, California, was reached and Mr. Fee piled hay until fall and then took up placer mining for a company, and was launched in the business that he had crossed many weary miles to attempt, and his eyes at last feasted on the gold that had lured, and which has been the making and unmaking of man in all ages. A farm hand in Ohio received at that time \$8 per month, and \$2.50 a day mining seemed a fortune for a time, but as the golden microbe assumed dominion, and as he had learned during his experience how to do all classes of mining; prospect work was taken up with more or less favorable results. The year 1862 found him in Idaho, where he worked for others, prospected on his own account, owned a pack train which made regular trips out of Boise City; and at one time owned a flume in California that conducted water to the mines. His mining experience

covered districts in California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona and in the Black Hills in Dakota, during the excitement of 1875-6, and ended at Tombstone, Arizona, in 1886. During these years of search he was rewarded many times and had fortune within his grasp; but owing to many causes—the lack of sufficient capital being the greatest obstacle—he was forced to abandon them to the next claimant, who frequently made his fortune. One instance recalled sold for \$100,000 after slight additional development, and there were others that promised as well. His labors were often in a country overrun with hostile Indians, and where if their claims had any shadow of right in the eyes of the government at Washington the regular troops took the side of the Redman and the miner was at the mercy of both factions. The reward, however, while fought for in contests that tried the man, netted as much in dollars as could have been earned in a life time of peace on an Ohio farm, and Mr. Fee is now well satisfied to rest at ease on his Kansas acres and recount what he has passed through.

Satisfied that he could not "buck nature single-handed" in February, 1886, Wm. J. Fee, wife and son came to Barton County and purchased the right to a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, entered by one Hemmingway, seven miles west from Great Bend. This he afterward proved up in his own name, and later buying another quarter, he now owns and cultivates a half section. It is well improved and in a high state of cultivation.

William James Fee and Miss Elizabeth T. Haines, of New Richmond, Clearmont County, Ohio, were married in September, 1881, at Santa Fe New Mexico, and have one son, Charles Haines Fee, 27, who resides with them.

## MICHAEL JAMES KEENAN

TO the old settler who blazed the way for the present generation the time seems short since they themselves were the principal actors in the tragic occurrences which transpired while building the foundation

for the "Banner County" of the great State of Kansas; but a new people are fast taking their places as workers in the field that is so inviting and among these is Michael J. Keenan, the fifth son of Thomas and Mary Keenan,

who came to Barton County in 1871 and located three and one-half miles northeast of Dundee. He has christened his place "Alfalfadale," and it covers two hundred acres of the most fertile land of his locality and if one may judge by the appearance of his fields he

the public schools of the district, and grew to manhood on his father's farm in the neighborhood of his present home. He made two attempts at home making in Oklahoma previous to his purchase of the home described above, when the government was allotting



Farm Residence of Michael James Keenan

learned industry and management from the teachings of the father. His house is a two story white frame building containing six rooms, neatly enclosed by a wire fence. There are a few stately trees and enough plants and shrubs on the grass plot to make it inviting. The barn is large and contains grain bins, hay loft and stalls for numerous horses and cattle, and there are several outbuildings. These buildings have all been recently erected and painted and present the appearance of a newly made home.

Michael J. Keenan was born on April 30, 1875, in Great Bend, Kansas, was educated in

lands in that territory. One was a claim near Cleo, Oklahoma and the other twenty miles northeast of Hobart, Oklahoma. The first of these was contested and lost by a suit in the courts, and the second was sold for a small sum because of its minor estimated value.

Michael J. Keenan and Miss Catherine Murphy, the eldest daughter of Patrick E. and Margaret Welch Murphy, of Barton County, were united in marriage on November 3, 1904, and they are the parents of four interesting children: Marguerite Mary, 6; Lorene and Norene (twins) and Mary Eileen, 1.

## ARTHUR LERAY FISH

ONE of the neatest appearing of the many fine farm homes in Barton County is that of Arthur Leray Fish, located about seven and one-half miles northeast of Great Bend. Mr. Fish came to this county with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Fish when he was seven years of age. This was in 1878. He was born in Lee County, Illinois, June 13, 1871. He lived there until he was four years old when the family moved to Iowa and after spending three years in that

state continued on westward and arrived in Barton County in 1877. The elder Mr. Fish located on school land on what is now Mr. Fish's home place in Lakin township. This place consists of 160 acres and it is apparent to the casual observer that Mr. Fish takes a great pride in his home as is evidenced by the neat arrangement of the buildings, orchard, shade trees, etc. Mr. Fish was married in Barton county in 1898 to Miss Marie Horton and they are the parents of two children:

Avis Laura, 12 years of age and Grace Ellen, four years of age. Both the children are being educated in the schools of the county. Mr. Fish is a member of the National Short Horn Breeders' Association and until recently made a specialty of breeding and raising Short Horn cattle. He still owns several head of this well known breed of animals and later on may again go into the business of breeding

and raising them on a more extensive scale. The residence on the home place contains eight rooms with bath, closets, etc. The barn is well built and is 40 by 42 feet in dimensions. Mr. Fish is a typical citizen of Barton County who came here at a time when it required all kinds of faith in the future to stick to the land and develop it until it reached its present high state of cultivation.

## CHRISTIAN KOOPMAN ESTATE

CHRISTIAN KOOPMAN was born in Germany in 1845, and came to America when he was twenty years of age.

He located first in Indiana where he remained for fifteen years and where he was married to Miss Minnie Paine in 1880. They are the parents of seven children. They came to Barton County in 1880 and Mr. Koopman at once took up the business of farming. He died May 15, 1900, and was survived by his wife and all the children. The children are as follows: George, 31 years of age, is now engaged in the plumbing and fitting business and is a member of the firm of Koopman & Fankhauser of Great Bend; Emma, 29 years of age is now Mrs. George L. Lucas; William, 28 years; Carl, 25 years; Edward, 22 years; Leo, 19 and Lillian 16 years, are all living on the home place east of Great Bend. The estate consists of 240 acres of land in Great Bend township about two and a half miles east of Great Bend, and a quarter section of

land in Stafford County. The home place is being farmed by the four younger boys and they maintain the home place in a most productive manner. The residence consists of eight rooms in addition to the closets, etc., and the barn is 56 by 42 feet in dimensions. Mrs. Koopman also owns 127 acres two miles north of the home place and a quarter section three miles north of the home place. Mr. and Mrs. Koopman came to Barton County at a time when the land needed development and it required a great deal of hard work to bring the soil to a state of productiveness where farming could be done at a profit. Mr. Koopman succeeded however and he was known and liked by the people of the county who came here in the 80's and withstood the hardships that were necessary in making a home. The Koopman family is one of the best known in the county and Mr. Koopman's name will always occupy a prominent place in the history of the county of Barton.

## THOMPSON OAKLEY COLE

THOMPSON OAKLEY COLE was born in Wakefield, England, March 6, 1844. He came to America with his parents in 1850 when he was eight years of age. They first located in Ohio where Mr. Cole remained until 1872 during which year he came to Barton County. During the Civil War Mr. Cole was a member of Company K., 96th Ohio. Among the important engagements in which Mr. Cole took an active part are the battles of Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines, near Mobile Bay. These engagements took place when Farragut and his followers were forcing their way up the big river. Upon Mr. Cole's arrival in Kansas he immediately took up the occupation of merchandising and since that time has had a great deal to do with the development of the soil and the upbuilding of the county. For fifteen years he owned and managed a grocery store in Great Bend and then bought land which now comprises his home place

and consists of one-half of section 12 and one-half of section 7 in Great Bend township. He was married in Great Bend in 1874 to Miss Jane Hull and they are the parents of two children as follows: Herbert Lee, 33 years of age, who resides at home; Claude, 29 years of age, is a practicing dentist in Iola, Kansas. Mr. Cole survived his first wife and in 1884 was married to Miss Agnes Hess and to this union there was born one child, Agnes, who is now 18 years of age and resides at home. Mr. Cole is a member of the Great Bend lodge of Elks. On the home place is found a neat well built residence consisting of five rooms, a barn that is 30 by 60 feet in dimensions, granaries and all other necessary outbuildings. Mr. Cole is one of the best known men in the county and has always been found with the progressive element in furthering the interests of the county.



## RUDOLPH LUDWIG BOESE

**A**MONG the younger farmers of Barton County none is better known for their progressive methods and enterprise shown in the cultivation of the soil, than the subject of this sketch, Rudolph Ludwig Boese. He was born September 7, 1887. His parents

has been wheat. He learned the best farming methods from his father who came here when it required the best of farming to produce anything like a crop, but by persistent effort he managed to improve his land and make it most productive. On the place where



Farm Residence of John Boese

were John and Julia Boese who came to America from Poland-Russia. His father first settled in Ohio and after remaining there two years came to Barton County where Rudolph was born. His mother first settled in Pennsylvania and came to Kansas in same year as her husband. He has one brother, Frank, and three sisters, Martha, Grace and Louise. He was married in April, 1909, to Miss Emma Rudiger and they now reside on a farm consisting of 200 acres, a short distance south of Dundee. They also own a quarter section in Pawnee County. The home place where they now reside is owned by Mr. Boese's father. Mr. Boese has a fine equipment of machinery and good live stock and his principal crop

they now reside there is a well built ten room house, a fine barn 32 by 60 feet and all the necessary outbuildings including an automobile garage. The barn is well built and contains stall room for a large number of animals and the loft permits storing a large quantity of hay. Mr. Boese gives personal attention to the supervision of his farm and has one of the best improved and most highly cultivated places in that section of the county. He is an enterprising and progressive young man and being a product of this county takes a great interest in any undertaking that he thinks is for the benefit of the community and the betterment of the county.

## ORRIS ALBERT BROWN

**O**RRIS ALBERT BROWN was born near Des Moines, Iowa, July 12, 1866. He came to Kansas in 1872 and is now residing on his home place about ten miles southeast of Great Bend where he owns three quarter sections of land in section 31, Comanche township. He was married in Russell County, Kansas, in 1887, to Miss Elizabeth Scharpf. They are the parents of five children as follows: Henry Frederick, 21 years; Elias Edward, 23 years; Viola Eldora, 13 years; An-

nje May, 10 years; Albert, 3 years. Henry and Albert are employed in the mercantile business in Great Bend, while the remainder of the children are studying in the schools of the county. The home place is well improved and in addition to it Mr. Brown superintends the farming of the three quarters he owns in Comanche township. The residence consists of 8 rooms besides closets, pantries, etc. The barn is large and commodious and has stall room for a large number of horses and a loft

that will permit the storing of a large quantity of hay. A small, well kept orchard adds greatly to the beauty of the surroundings of the home place. Mr. Brown came to Barton coun-

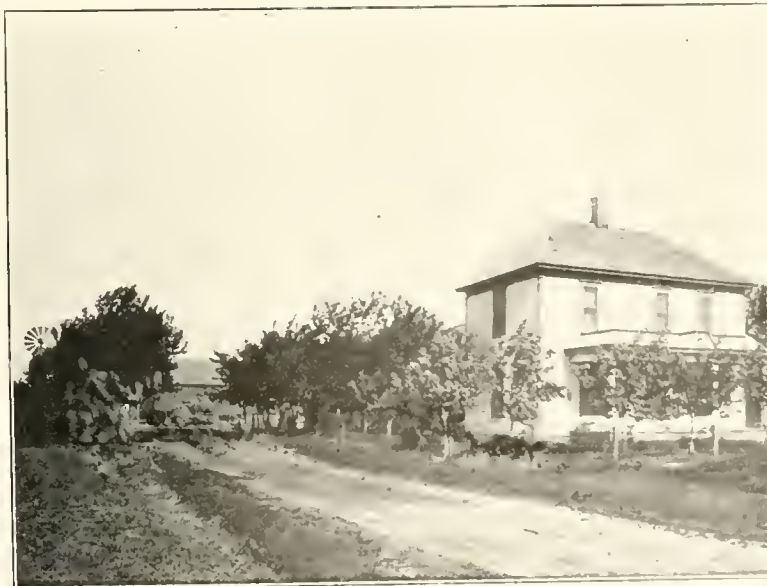
ern farming methods in the cultivation of the soil has succeeded in bringing his part of the county to a high state of cultivation and development. He had a large part in the work of



Farm Residence of Orris Albert Brown

ty at a time when only those who had faith in the future could withstand the conditions found here and remain. He remained however and by consistent effort together with using mod-

reclaiming the section of the county south of the river from a barren waste and making of it one of the most desirable in the county of Barton.



Farm Residence of George Washington Tucker

## GEORGE WASHINGTON TUCKER

**G**EORGE WASHINGTON TUCKER was born February 3, 1860, in Southern Indiana and came to Barton County twenty-six years ago at a time when the outlook for the future was anything but bright. However, Mr. Tucker could see the wonderful possibilities of Barton County and decided to cast his lot with the other old timers who by their faith in the future and hard, consistent effort succeeded in building a home and developing the land to a state where it would produce crops in paying quantities. Mr. Tucker owns 240 acres of land seven miles south of Great Bend and a section of land in Gray County. He was married February 2, 1888 to Miss Mattie M. Schaeffer whose father built the first house in the city of Great Bend. They are the parents of four children all of whom are at home. They are as follows: Delbert Lee, 23 years; Elsie May, 18 years; Clifford M.,

13 years; Ruby M., six years. Mr. Tucker came here at a time when many of the old timers were getting ready to leave but after he had purchased the land which is now his home place he decided that the future would turn out as it has if the proper effort was made with scientific farming methods. That Mr. Tucker's judgment was good is evidenced by the high state of cultivation found on the land in that section of the county. He has had a great deal to do with the development of the resources of this county and is one of that body of men whose staying qualities in the face of difficulties made it possible to make a rich agricultural section out of what was in the early eighties almost a barren waste. Mr. Tucker is an enterprising and progressive citizen and knows a great deal about the history of Barton county and the people who came here in the early days to establish homes.

## AUGUST MAUSOLF

**O**NE of the really old timers of Clarence township and one of the best known men in Barton County is August Mausolf, son of John and Amelia Mausolf who lo-

stead that is two and a half miles west of August's present home. Mr. Mausolf took up his residence on this quarter which is located fourteen miles northwest of Great Bend in



Farm Scene On August Mausolf's Farm

cated in Rush County in 1879. August Mausolf was born in West Prussia, November 20, 1868. He came with his parents to Jersey City, New Jersey, when he was four years of age. His parents remained there seven years and then came to Rush County, locating on a home-

stead in 1892. In 1898 he married Miss Henrietta Scheiffelheim and they now have one bright boy, Walter, aged 6 years. Mr. Mausolf has always been an enterprising and progressive citizen and in addition to the quarter on which he lives he owns eighty eighty acres of land



in Clarence township, and three eighty acre tracts in Rush County twenty-five miles west of his home place. All of this land is in a high state of cultivation and shows that Mr. Mausolf has always worked on a policy of improvement. His home place is well stocked with cattle and horses and he takes a special pride in his flock of fancy White Leghorn chickens which attract the eyes of visitors on the Mausolf place. A fine six room residence is found on the home place. It is neatly and comfortably furnished and affords Mr. Mausolf

and family all the comforts of a modern home. The barn, sheds and other necessary buildings on the Mausolf place are well built of the best material and altogether the Mausolf place is one of best improved and most modern to be found in the country. To make this complete we must add that Mr. Mausolf's home was destroyed by a cyclone during the month of May, 1912. He and his wife had a narrow escape. They are now living in Great Bend. The disaster happened after the foregoing was written.

## JOSIAH CLINTON WEATHERS

**J**OSIAH CLINTON WEATHERS was born in Putnam County, Indiana, October 14, 1856, and came to Barton County in 1884, and located six miles south and four miles west of Great Bend in a section where a plow had never been used. The first few years that Mr. Weathers spent in this county were hard ones, but he is made of the kind of stuff that makes

Weathers was married in November, 1881 to Miss Marguerite F. Reigel in Indiana. They are the parents of eleven children: Dennis, 29 years; Allva 27 years; Leroy, 25 years, Ora 23 years; Paul, 21 years; Pearl, 19 years; Jessie, 17 years; Blanche, 14 years; Chester, 12 years; Roscoe, 10 years; Herman, 1 years. The first named four are married and living in the



Farm Residence of Josiah Clinton Weathers

pioneers and with an unflinching faith in the future he set about to make a home for himself and family. He erected a building 14 by 16 which was used as a residence for three years. Additions were added to the house as they were required and in 1900 Mr. Weathers built a fine modern, eight room house which is now one of the most neatly furnished homes in that section of the county. In the early days Mr. Weathers bought corn for fifteen cents per bushel and the wages at that time were 75 cents per day with a team. Mr.

county, and the remainder are living at home and receiving educations. Besides three quarter sections of land which Mr. Weathers sold to his sons he still owns three quarters in addition to the home place. Mr. Weathers' farm is known as "Cedar Grove," the home being surrounded by well kept cedar trees which add in no small way to the beauty of the landscape. Mr. Weathers has been township treasurer for eighteen years and has also served as a member of the school board. On Mr. Weathers' place is what is supposed to be the



oldest windmill tower in the county. It was erected by E. L. Chapman in the early days and has received a number of coats of paint and is now in fair condition. Mr. Weathers is

an enterprising and progressive citizen and one of the best known of the old timers of the county which he has seen grow from a barren waste to its present high state of cultivation.

### MRS. F. E. ELLIOTT

MRS. F. E. ELLIOTT has resided in Barton County for the past thirty-six years, having come here with her husband in 1877, at a time when the county's history was just beginning. Mr. Elliott died in June, 1909 and since that time Mrs. Elliott has carried on the work on the home place with the aid of help. She gives personal attention

possible to go from one room to another with the minimum of walking. The home is furnished with up-to-date furniture and that Mrs. Elliott takes a pride in her home is evidenced on every hand. The house is lighted with a large acetylene gas lighting plant of a modern design. A well improved water system supplies water to the house and bath room,



Residence of Mrs. F. E. Elliott

to its management and is among the most successful business women of the county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Elliott are natives of Massachusetts. They were married in June, 1877. They are the parents of one child, Minnie, who is thirty-four years of age. She is now Mrs. Roy Weathers, having been married in 1910, and lives near her mother on the same section line. Mrs. Elliott's home is one of the most modern and neatly arranged to be found in the county. It consists of eleven rooms with a large commodious basement and garret. The rooms are on two floors and are connected one with the other in a way that makes it

both hot and cold water being supplied. Mrs. Elliott's daughter is a graduate of the Great Bend High School having received her diploma with the class of 1898, and she is also a graduate of the Centrad Normal College. The surroundings near the Elliott home are pleasing and make of it one of the most attractive farms in that section of the county. It is located eight and a half miles west and south of Great Bend and is in a high state of cultivation. Mrs. Elliott also owns eighty acres of land two miles south and west of the town-site of Great Bend.

### JOHN OLIVER TUCKER

JOHN OLIVER TUCKER was born in the southern part of Indiana in December, 1865, and came to Barton County in 1899. He left Indiana when he was nineteen years of

age and went to Illinois. He stayed there six months and then went to Missouri where he remained a short time after which he made his first trip to Kansas twenty-five years ago.

He remained in the Sunflower state but a short time after which he returned to Illinois and spent several years there and in Missouri before he finally decided to locate in Kansas. Then he came to Barton County on the date mentioned above, and immediately began the development of 160 acres of land which now comprises his home place seven miles south of

proved and contains a six room residence which has been built at intervals, the first building being one room 18 by 24 feet. A fine an up-to-date farmer using modern methods in all his work and his place is equipped with all the necessary machinery and live stock barn is maintained which is 32 by 40 feet, exclusive of the corn crib which adjoins it on the



Farm Residence of John Oliver Tucker

Great Bend. He was married in 1895 to Miss Hattie B. Giddings of Minonk, Illinois. They are the parents of two children, Albert R., sixteen years of age and Helen A., fifteen years old, both of whom are students in the schools of Barton County. Mr. Tucker is of an optimistic turn of mind and says that considering everything during his residence in this county he considers the twelve years most prosperous ones. His home place is nicely im-

south and is 20 by 32. In addition to the 160 acres on the home place Mr. Tucker owns a half section of land in Morton county. He is for the successful cultivation of the soil. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen and has helped in no small way to make that section of Barton County one of the most productive and one of the best in the State of Kansas.

### LOUIS PLANKENHORN

THE subject of this sketch, Louis Plankenhorn, was born in Wayne County, Indiana, April 14, 1859. He came to Barton County in 1892, and bought land in South Bend township which is now his home place. This land is located in the northwest corner of section 16 and is in a high state of cultivation. In addition to this land Mr. Plankenhorn farms seventy-five acres of land adjoining the home place on the west. He was married August 17, 1882, to Miss Florence Job, in Wayne County, Indiana. They are the parents of two children: Ethel Christina, 26 years of age, who is now Mrs. F. W. Stewart and resides on a farm five miles north of Great Bend and Glenda Irene who is fifteen years of age and living at home. She is a student in the Barton county schools. Mr. Plankenhorn has taken a great interest in his home place as is evidenced by the fact that with all the regular

work of raising a crop of staple products he has found time to improve the surroundings, and south of his home he has a fine orchard in which are found apple, plum, peach and other fruit trees. The residence consists of seven rooms in addition to bath, pantries, closets, etc. The home is well built and neatly arranged and the shade trees about the house are well arranged and maintained in a most inviting manner. The barn is 30 by 52 feet and has an addition that is used as a cow barn which is 20 by 48 feet in dimensions. Mr. Plankenhorn has one of the nicest home places in that section of the county and farms his land according to the best methods and is an enterprising and progressive citizen and has done much to make the part of the county south of the river one of the best of the crop producing sections.



Home of Louis Plankenhorn

## WILLIAM HENRY MAYBACH



Residence of William Henry Maybach

**W**ILLIAM HENRY MAYBACH was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, November 10, 1858. He received his early education in the public schools of that county and took a normal course which fitted him for teaching. He taught in the schools of Indiana for three years and returned to his native state at the end of that time and taught in the schools there for nine years. In May, 1885, he arrived in Barton county and began

the building of a home and the development of the land on the southwest quarter of section 24 in Liberty township. This is the home place and is now known as "Cottage Grove Farm." He owns in all 800 acres of land, three quarters of it being in section 25 of Liberty township, and one quarter in South Bend township. Of this land Mr. Maybach farms a half section, the remainder being rented. Mr. Maybach was married in 1889 to Miss Ella Reichenbach of



Orville, Ohio. To this union there was born one son, Fred, who is now 21 years of age. After finishing a course in civil engineering at the Agricultural College at Manhattan he accepted a position with the Santa Fe Railroad and is now in that company's employ with headquarters at Arkansas City. Mr. Maybach survived his first wife and was married to Miss Cora Waddle of Barton County in 1898. They are the parents of two children: Carl Henry, eleven years of age, and Marie Eliza-

beth, five years of age. Mr. Maybach has a well equipped farm, having all the necessary outbuildings and a residence of 8 rooms. One of the features of Mr. Maybach's farm is the orchard in which are found apple, pear, peach and plum trees as well as many varieties of berries. Mr. Maybach has been most successful in raising fruit as he uses modern methods and understands tree culture. He maintains good live stock and owes his success to using the best methods in the cultivation of the soil.

### JOHN ALLISON HOGE

OF the old timers of Barton County who came here in the 80's the subject of this sketch, John Allison Hoge, is one who has remained and made a success of the farming business. He was born September 16, 1855, in Green County, Pa., and came to Barton County in 1886. He immediately engaged in the farming business and now owns three quarter sections of land in Liberty town-

ship in which he grows nearly all varieties of fruits common to this section of the country. Mr. Hoge has made a specialty of breeding and raising Galloway cattle and is considered an authority on all matters pertaining to this breed of cattle and he has done much to encourage the breeding of high class cattle in the county. Mr. Hoge owes his success to the practical farming methods which he has



Farm Residence of John Allison Hoge

ship all of which is under cultivation and being farmed under Mr. Hoge's supervision. He was married in Witzel County, West Virginia, in 1878, to Miss H. E. Haught. They are the parents of four children: Charles, 32 years of age, who is a practicing dentist at Kinsley, in this state; Ira, 28 years of age, engaged in the farming business near Offerle, Kansas; Sol, 26 years old, who is operating a farm near Lewis, Kansas and Thomas, 13 years of age who is a student in the Barton County schools. The home place has a modern eight room residence, a fine well built barn and other outbuildings. Mr. Hoge maintains a fine

used in developing his farm into one of the most desirable in that part of the county. While Mr. Hoge takes an interest in all public affairs he has never held any public office other than at times being an officer of the township in which he resides. His place is located about three and one-half miles from Great Bend and is one of the best developed and most highly improved in Barton. Mr. Hoge came here at a time when the outlook for the future was not the brightest but by good management and a thorough knowledge of farming he has made a success of which he can justly be proud.



## ROBERT ARTHUR BIDLEMAN

**R**OBERT ARTHUR BIDLEMAN is one of those pioneers who came to Barton County in 1878, at a time when things were looking bright for the future and the new comers thought they had at last found a veritable garden spot. However, this year was followed by a most unsuccessful one. Then came the bad times and only those who were made of the kind of stuff of which real pioneers are made were possessed of the nerve to stick it out. Mr. Bidleman was one of these and he now lives on his home place which is located in section 23, South Bend township. It consists of 160 acres, all of which Mr. Bidleman farms in addition to a quarter section on which he farms in section 24. Mr. Bidleman was born November 5, 1859, at Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. He went to school, and learned to farm in his home state before coming to Barton County on the date

mentioned. He was married July 2, 1906, to Miss Minnie Witte of Great Bend. Mr. Bidleman has been on his home place about five years and is making improvements every year and this year will add a summer kitchen to his residence. The barn is 34 by 40, well built and commodious and always contains a good grade of work stock. A young orchard covering a piece of ground west of the residence is adding greatly to the beauty of the surroundings and contains fruit of several varieties that are common to this section of the country. Mr. Bidleman has held township offices and is an enterprising and progressive citizen. One of those who helped to make that part of the county lying south of the river one of the most desirable in its borders. He has seen a great deal of the early history of this county and knew the men who made it possible to make Barton County one of the best in the State of Kansas.

## HENRY BENJAMIN UNRUH

**T**HE subject of this sketch, Henry B. Unruh, came to Barton county in 1876 from Pennsylvania where he first located after leaving the old country where he was born in Russia-Poland, in 1852. By trade he is a weaver and sawyer but upon his arrival in this county he immediately took up the business of farming and located in the Mennonite Colony near Dundee. His home place consists of about 220 acres of land all of which is in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Unruh was married in 1873 to Miss Susan Dirks. Mr. Unruh survived his first wife who died in 1901. They were the parents of ten children. Mr. Unruh married Miss Kate Johnson of South Dakota, in 1902, and they have been blessed with four children. Mr. Unruh's mother died in the Old Country and his father passed away in this country in 1910. Mr. Unruh's farm is one of the best developed in that part of the county and he has always had it well stocked with the best of horses and cattle and all the necessary machinery for successful farming.

With all Mr. Unruh's work he has found time to work out and perfect an invention on which he has the patent that is some day destined to revolutionize the science of railroad building. The invention consists of an endless or continuous rail. It has received the endorsement of some of the leading railroad men of the country and had Mr. Unruh been so inclined he could have sold the rights to manufacture the rail to an eastern outfit but as they wanted it all without giving anything in return their offer was not accepted by Mr. Unruh. The invention is one of the most perfect of contrivances and it will do away with the jar and noise caused when a train goes from one rail to the next on the ordinary railroad. Mr. Unruh is in no hurry to dispose of his patent but is now contemplating the organization of a stock company to manufacture and sell the rails of his construction. Mr. Unruh is one of the best known men in the county and his invention has brought him no little fame and will in time reward him in a more substantial way.

## ELDRIDGE YORK

**A**MONG the well known residents of Walnut township and one who had a great deal to do with the developing of that section of Barton County is Eldridge York. He was born October 12, 1863, in Ulster County, New York, and came to Barton County when he was twenty-one years of age. He purchased 80 acres of land on the Dry Walnut and later bought the old Gallon homestead in section 34 of Walnut township. He recently sold a part of his land but still owns 204 acres in Walnut township, and a quarter section of land in Ford County. He was married November 14, 1890, to Miss Sarah Gray of Ulster

County, New York, and they are the parents of three children as follows: Walter E., 20 years of age; Emery G., 14 years of age, and Elmer L., 12 years of age. All the children are at home and are being educated in the schools of the county. The York home is nicely situated and the improvements are substantial and well built. The residence contains seven rooms in addition to closets, pantries, etc., while the barn is 50 by 62 feet in dimensions. The other outbuildings are all that one requires in the successful operation of a farm according to modern methods. Mr. York has always maintained a good grade of horses and

cattle and until recently made a specialty of raising Chester White hogs, and thoroughbred Short Horn cattle. Mr. York gave this work a great deal of attention and was one of the most successful breeders of fancy hogs and cattle in that part of the county. He has been a member of the school board and has always

taken an active part in the affairs of his community. Mr. York came here at a time when it needed men of experience and men who had faith in the future of the county to make it one of the best counties in the State of Kansas.

### WILLIAM HARRISON RUSSELL

**W**ILLIAM HARRISON RUSSELL was born April 20, 1841, in the State of Indiana and is one of the really old timers of Barton County, having come here in 1874, during the month of September. He first located in Beaver township about a mile south of the county line. He remained there until 1901 when he moved to his present home place in South Bend township about eight miles south and west of the City of Great Bend. Mr. Russell enlisted in Co. E, 91th Illinois Infantry August 7, 1862, and served throughout the war. He was engaged in the battle of Vicksburg, and was with Grant all the way down the Mississippi, and took part in the Mobile campaign, one of the severest of the war. He can tell many interesting reminiscences of the big conflict and has a soldier's record of which he can be justly proud. He was married in McLean County, Illinois, to Miss Mary Newton in 1868 and they are the parents of three children: Ira, 40 years of age, who is now book-keeper for the Butcher Packing Co., of Salina, Kansas. Ray, 26 years of age, who is one of

the best known veterinarians in this section of the state. His office being in Great Bend where he with Dr. Cheney have one of the most up-to-date animal hospitals in this section of the country. Guy, who is 12 years of age, assists his father in the work of operating the farm. The home place consists of 150 acres of land in addition to which Mr. Russell owns a half section of good land in Ford County. On the home place is found a well built, commodious seven room house, a good barn and all the needed outbuildings that are usually found on the modernly equipped farms of Barton County. Mr. Russell came here at a time when it required nerve for the residents to stay and fight it out with the elements which seemed to make it harder and harder every year. It is to such men as Mr. Russell that Barton County owes her present high standing among the leading agricultural sections of the world. He has always been a progressive citizen and has seen this county grow from an almost barren waste to its present high state of cultivation.

### WILLIAM GAGELMAN

**B**ORN near Madburg, Prussia, May 4, 1848, Wm. Gagelman came to America with his parents, Christopher and Katie Gagelman in 1864. They located near Bloomington, Illinois. In 1877, William was seized by the western fever and came across the plains and secured a location in Barton County by buying railroad land and since that time no man in the county has had more to do with its development and upbuilding than has Mr. Gagelman. For thirty-one years he was actively engaged in the farming business and by consistent effort and skillful management he accumulated more land, and at one time owned 1,600 acres in this county. He was married in 1873 to Miss Dora Barstal and to this union there were born eight children: Lena, 38 years; Bertha, 37 years; Fred W., 36 years; Harry E., 33 years; Matilda L., 31 years; Clara Augusta, 29 years; Rosa, 27 years; Ida, 21 years. Mr. Gagelman's second wife was Miss Matilda Belz and they were married in 1894.

They are the parents of two children: Martha Mary, 16 years and Olga Elsa, 14 years. All these children are living in the county with the exception of Matilda L., who resides in Kansas City. Mr. Gagelman retired in 1908 and since that time has been living in Great Bend. He occupies a comfortable, modern residence at 1205 Holland street and in addition to this property owns four other residences in the city and 1,060 acres of farm land. The farm land is being worked by Mr. Gagelman's sons and sons-in-law, all of his children being married with the exception of Ida, Martha and Olga, the latter two being students in the Great Bend schools. Mr. Gagelman is a member and trustee of the Lutheran church and with all his personal interests has found time to take a most active part in anything that has for its purpose the betterment of the county and city. He is a progressive and enterprising citizen and in addition to his holdings in this state is interested in mining properties in Missouri.

### GEORGE RICHARD HARDERS

**I**F years count George Richard Harders of "Wheat Land Farm" is neither an old man, an old citizen of the United States, or an early settler in Barton County. He

is, however, one of its best citizens, and has bought and improved one of the best farms of his locality, which may be reached by traveling one mile north from the court house in

Great Bend, and then twelve miles due west. In 1903 he purchased the Calvin Reeder farm of one hundred and sixty acres and paid twenty-five dollars per acre— and the wise ones shook their heads. He, however, knew what he was doing and went to work improving the place and at this writing has about the neatest little farm along the drive. He built a new house with nine rooms and a hall; a barn which will accommodate twelve head of horses and nine milk cows, and feed for the same; an elevator and granary; a cement milk house and several windmills. Then he picketed the lawn, garden and horse lots, wired the various fields, and painted the buildings so that they stand out and attract universal commendation. There is a young orchard and a grove of forest trees, a number of plants and shrubs, and these give a setting of green that is most delightful.

The interior is furnished with all modern conveniences and is in the same good taste displayed outside, and as a home it is worth all in comfort that it has cost in dollars. This transformation has not been accomplished with at much labor and thought and redounds to the credit of both Mr. and Mrs. Harders.

George Harders was born in Ostfriesland, Germany, March 6th, 1871, and came to America October 29, 1893. He first settled near Flannagan, Livingston County, Ill., where he rented and tilled the soil. In 1903 he purchased the land above described, and in January, 1904, removed his family here. He married Miss Anna Gerdson on December 29th, 1899, in Livingston County, Illinois, and two children have blessed the union: Fred Herman, 11, and Mary Christina, 10.

### DIEDRICH ESSMILLER

THE name Essmiller is the synonym of prosperity in Barton County, because the Essmiller Bros. have made a success of farming, breeding and selling stock just west of Great Bend, and are well known and highly respected in the community. The second brother, Diedrich Essmiller, came to Barton County in 1880, and settled one mile south of his present location. He now lives five and

He has a number of windmills pumping sparkling water from deep driven wells on the premises, and this is piped to the house for drinking and bathing, and to the barns and lots for watering stock. His buildings are lighted by an acetylene plant and supplied with other conveniences. The barns are among the largest in the county and will store the crops produced on the section, as well as house the



Farm Home of Diedrich Essmiller

one-half miles northwest of the county seat on the best improved section of land in the county. His first purchase was the Noah Brumbaugh homestead, and later the other three quarters. He has the entire tract in the very highest state of cultivation and his buildings are among the best, most convenient and commodious in his neighborhood. His house and barns are located about midway of the section on the east side, and are on the highest point on the farm. The house has 13 rooms, is a frame building and painted pure white.

work animals, cattle and hogs grown and in use on a place of this size.

Diedrich Essmiller was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, September 27th, 1853, and is fifty-three years of age. He came to this country in 1872 at the age of nineteen and settled in LaCrosse County, Wisconsin, where he pursued the occupation of a farm hand for the succeeding eight years. In November, 1878, he was married to Miss Dora Weingarten, of LaCrosse County, Wisconsin, and they have a daughter and son, Lillie 12,



and Arnold F., both children making their home with their parents on the farm, although Miss Lillie was united in marriage to Kirby Evers on October 11th, 1906. There is a grandson, Elmer, a sturdy little farmer of eleven years, who assists his grandfather in the management of the estate. Besides the section mentioned above Mr. Essmiller is a joint owner with his brother Will in three quarters in Pawnee County, Kansas, which is well improved, and is known to have other interests and investments in the county.

## HENRY MILLER

**T**HE subject of this sketch was born May 27th, 1857, near Bremen, Germany, and at this writing is in his fifty-fifth year. He came to America with his parents when seven years old and settled in LaCrosse County, Wisconsin. He received his education in the public schools of the neighborhood, and until he was twenty-five worked for his father on the farm. In the spring of 1883 he came to Barton County, and in 1890 bought a part of

When Mr. Essmiller settled in Barton County he was a comparatively poor man, and what he has has been accumulated by the hardest of work under adverse circumstances. The last few years, however, he has retired from laborious work, contenting himself with looking on and directing while his son and son-in-law, who lease the farm, perform the heavier duties. His success is the result of good judgment and hard work, and by being fortunate in selecting a kind of soil which has responded to his continued effort.

Besides the section on which he lives, Mr. Miller owns a quarter out of section 5, near Heizer; one hundred acres of section 2, Buffalo township, and four hundred and eighty acres in Rush County, one mile south of Neoma.

In November, 1883, Henry F. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Sandman, of LaCrosse County, Wisconsin. The ceremony was performed in Great Bend, Miss Sandman



Farm and Home of Henry Miller

his present holdings from Fred H. Miller, who was an earlier purchaser from the Santa Fe Railway Company. He has since added other parcels until his home place embraces a whole section. His location is six miles west of the court house at Great Bend, and his farm is in the highest state of cultivation. His buildings are new, commodious, substantial and convenient, and built to house a growing family and to care for the crops and stock necessary on a large farm. His machinery and farm implements are of the up-to-date Kansas farmer kind, as is everything else on the Miller homestead.

having journeyed from her northern home to assist her future husband in making his fortune on what was then considered the Kansas plains. The union has been blessed by five children, viz: Georgia N., the wife of W. C. Otte, a farmer, living northeast of Heizer; Edna, wife of Frank Case, farmer, four miles north of Heizer; and Ernie, Robert and William who are still single and at home.

The success of Mr. Miller is the result of good judgment, economy and hard work during the first years of his residence in the county. He has faced conditions that were tragedies, which is the usual lot of the man who



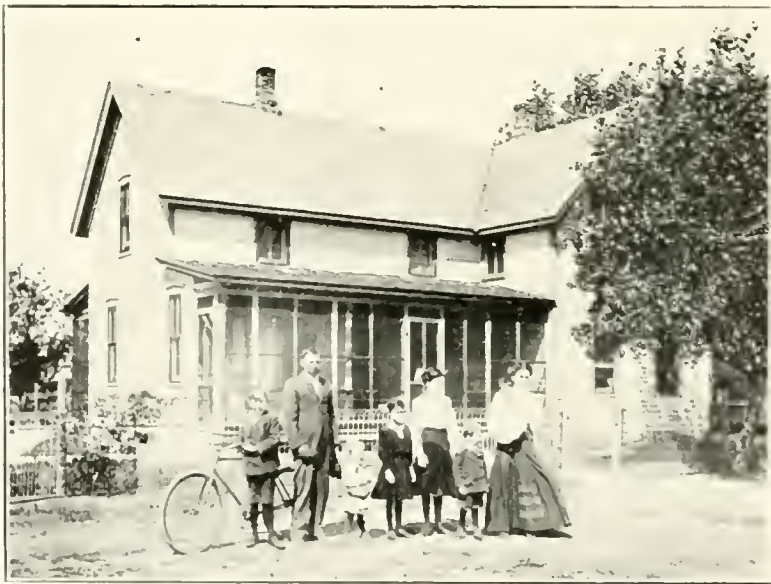
tills the soil and depends on the elements to provide the moisture that makes them grow. During the twenty-eight years which he has resided in Barton County there has been harvests that were almost complete failures, and

which barely provided seed and feed for the next year. Many crops have been bumper yielders and have made Barton County famous as a wheat producer.

### JOHN ALBERT MAUSOLF

THE beautiful "High Valley Farm," the scene portrayed above is the home of John Albert and Lena Mausolf, twelve and one-half miles west from Great Bend, and it stands on a farm of four hundred acres that cannot be excelled in Barton County. The soil is a rich, brown, dark sandy loam, and every acre of it is tillable. It is well fenced and shows careful cultivation, and the growing crops and well filled granaries proves the management is not lacking. The residence is a story and a half frame, "T" shaped; has an enclosed porch across the front, and contains ten rooms. It is modernly furnished and supplies

John A. Mausolf was born in West Prussia Province, Germany, on December 20th, 1863, and came to America with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Mausolf, in 1873, who first settled in New York City, remaining two years, removed to Jersey City where they remained five years, and then removed to Kansas and made a home in Garfield township, Rush County. The father died in Great Bend on February 5th, 1911, and the mother occupies a home in Great Bend. The marriage of Mr. Mausolf occurred in April, 1896, and the following summer he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm, paying there-



Home and Family of John Albert Mausolf

all the conveniences to be had in a city home of the same size and character. Around it are clustered beautifully leaved forest trees, and inside the iron paved lawn is a carpet of grass, and there are shrubs, plants and flowers sufficient to make it very inviting. A model creamery and wash house, built of concrete blocks, stands back in the yard, and across the driveway is the garage. To the right of this stand the barns, granary, elevator and other buildings which house the farm implements and shelter the stock.

for \$1,750. In 1899 he purchased eighty acres at a cost of \$1,000, and in 1906 he bought one hundred and sixty acres more for \$5,500. The four hundred acres cost \$8,250 at the time of purchase, and would probably sell for \$40,000 today.

John Albert Mausolf was married to Miss Lena Gagelman of Barton County, on April 16th, 1896, and they have six interesting children—three boys and three girls, Alma, 15; Harry, 11; Erna L., 9; Alfred 6; Carl, 4; and Loreine, 1.

## IRA D. BROUGHER

OF the old timers who came to Barton County in the early '70's none is better known than Ira Day Brougher, who arrived in this county in 1874. He was born May 14, 1843, in York County, Pennsylvania. He received his early education in the schools of that state and at the beginning of the war he enlisted in the 13th Pennsylvania and was a member of Company F. He began his enlistment June 9, 1862, and was honorably discharged January 3, 1863. He re-enlisted in the U. S. Military Railroad Department and saw active service until 1866. He took part in



the battle of South Mountain, Maryland, and later lost his right arm as the result of a wound received at the battle of Antietam. At the close of the war he went to Philadelphia where he took a course in the Bryant-Stratton Business College. He graduated from this institution in 1868. This course of study fitted him for the occupation of book-keeper which he followed for several years in Philadelphia and New York where he held responsible positions with wholesale houses. He remained in New York City for two years and was there when he was seized with the idea to go west and grow up with the country, as was advised by Horace Greeley. He came direct to Barton County, Kansas in 1874 and homesteaded a

claim in what is now South Bend township, about six miles southwest of Great Bend. He helped to organize this township and was the first trustee. He was engaged in the farming business from then on until he retired from active work on the farm in 1889. Mr. Brougher was elected county clerk of Barton County at the fall election of 1877, and held this office for three consecutive terms or six years. In 1889 he was elected to the office of Clerk of the District Court which office he held when Judge Clark was district judge of this judicial district. When Mr. Brougher first came to this section of the state the outlook was anything but bright for the future and although he was handicapped by having but one arm, he plunged into the thick of the development work and from his public service which is mentioned above it can be seen that he had time to take an active part in public matters as well as look after his private affairs. Mr. Brougher was one of those men who made this county one of the best in the State of Kansas out of a barren prairie waste. For a time after his arrival here there was a period when things looked mighty fine for the early settlers, but this was followed by several years which tried the hearts and souls of the pioneers, when they were compelled to combat not only the uncertainty of moisture but had to contend with the grasshoppers and other conditions over which they had no control. However it was fortunate that the population of Barton County at that time contained men, who like Mr. Brougher, could see the possibilities of the future and in spite of the undesirable conditions remained and developed the county's resources until it is now one of the most important in the State of Kansas. Mr. Brougher owns nine quarter sections of land in this part of the state; seven of them being in Barton and one each in Stafford and Hodgeman counties. He is also one of the directors of the German-American Bank of Great Bend and was one of the organizers and is still president of the Barton County Fair Association, an office which he has filled since the association was formed in 1900. He also has interests in the mercantile line in Great Bend and is counted as a progressive, enterprising citizen, and one of the men who blazed the way for others to make of Barton County one of the most productive agricultural sections in the world.

## MRS. ISABEL PATTERSON

THE Patterson family, of which Mrs. Isabel Patterson is the head, are probably as well and favorably known as any in county. Settling on home place March, 1876, public attention was directed to this family by the sudden death of Joseph Patterson, the father, and his two young sons on April 13th, 1879. It appears that on that day there was a thun-

der storm, accompanied by the usual rain flurry, and that in the yard was an unprotected ash hopper, which at that period was usually found on the premises of most farm homes and used for the purpose of making the family soap. A large flat rock attracted the attention of the husband as the best and most easily found protection for the hopper, and he re-

quested his two young sons to assist him in placing the stone over the opening at the top. And, while in this act the three were stricken down in an instant by a flash of lightning with death as the result. During a residence of three years in one community Mr. Patterson and his family had endeared themselves to most of the settlers over a considerable section and the tragic incident caused comment for years following. Joseph Patterson was born May 6, 1838, in Virginia.

Mrs. Patterson's maiden name was Millikin, and she was born November 23, 1838, in Osgood County, Indiana. She was left an orphan at an early age and was adopted by a relative and grew to womanhood on a farm in Madison County, Ohio. She married Joseph Patterson at Circleville, Pickaway County, Ohio, on November 14th, 1860. She was the mother of ten children. A daughter named Mary Sayler, who

died August, 1909, John and Frank, the two sons mentioned above as being stricken by lightning, and these following: Wm. Patterson, residing in Los Angeles, California; Joseph Patterson, jr., married Katie Tolbert, and resides near Albert; Stanley F. Patterson, married Anna Gruber, residence, Hutchinson; Sarah Patterson, single, residing with her mother; Orr Patterson, married Clara Goeldner, residence, Great Bend; Err Patterson, married Grace Zimmer, residence, home farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Patterson, Sr., came to Barton County on March 8th, 1876, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land from the Santa Fe railway company at four dollars and forty cents per acre. Failure of crops caused them to forfeit this contract, and they repurchased a few years later, this time having to pay six dollars. The premises are well improved and grows good crops.

### CHARLES E. BUTTON

**T**HE birth of Charles E. Button antedates that of Barton County by about two years, because he was born Feb. 25, 1869, and was among the first organized body of pioneers assembled on the townsite of Great Bend in the Spring of 1871. Thus it happened that the two lives began almost simultaneously and their histories are practically one and the same. Mr. Button first saw the light in Peoria

that life really began for little Charles, because his blood thrabbed with the life of a new country. He saw Indians as they passed and repassed his father's home; saw buffalo as they fed majestically on the range, and saw his father bring them to earth with a trusty gun with popular skill. The cowboy and his bucking broncho were the idols of his imagination and he longed for the day when he could



Charles E. Button's Residence

County, Illinois, and came to Barton County, Kansas, when but five years of age, accompanied by his parents, Almon H. and Annie E. Button. They arrived in the county in March, 1875, and settled four miles northwest of the farm described in this sketch, and it was then

he trusted with a pony and gun to roam the prairie and chase the Texas cattle as he saw them do. The stores then told of "Dutch Henry" and his gang of horse thieves are still fresh in his memory, as well as other frontier day yarns. He is a man who had a great deal

to do with the early day history of his part of the county. He has improved his home place with exceptional skill and made of it one of the most attractive farms in his township. Mr.

Button has always taken an active part in the affairs of his part of the county and is an enterprising and progressive citizen.

### JOSEPH THIES

**T**HE life history here recorded of Joseph Thies, is the record made by one of the largest renters of land in Barton County. He was born in Belgium on May 15th, 1878, and emigrated to the United States in 1893, when but fifteen years of age, and has imbibed more of American ways than of the Fatherland. He stopped first near Chicago, Illinois, where he hired himself to a farmer to learn how to grow and till the crops of this country; and later he was employed by a transfer company in the city for nine years and came face to face with the business world in the busiest city on the American continent. Thus he fitted himself for the strenuous life he has pursued since coming to Kansas, which was in September, 1902. He first rented the six hundred and forty acre farm of W. N. Klepper, six miles southeast of Great Bend, and remained there until 1905. Then he tried his fortunes for three years nine miles southeast of Ellinwood, on a section owned by Henry Roetzel. He then returned to the Klepper farm and remained there until the fall of 1911, when he took charge of the Gus. Werhahn farm of three hundred and twenty acres, fourteen miles west of Great Bend, and he

now hopes that he has secured the farm where he can put in practice the theories he has for conducting a large farm on an economical basis.

Joe has always had several side lines heretofore; such as owning and operating a threshing machine, corn sheller and trading in live stock. He has discarded the thrasher and sheller, and will sell and breed horses, mules and cattle, and cultivate corn, wheat, oats and alfalfa in the future. He is a great hustler and Mr. Werhahn is fortunate in having him.

Joseph Thies was married to Miss Anna Frances Grommes, of Aurora, Illinois, on August 20th, 1902, and they have three interesting children: Elizabeth Cordelia, aged 8 years; John Nicholas, 7, and Frank Henry, 5.

Mrs. Thies was born in Aurora, Ill., on March 16th, 1881, and has adapted herself to farm life in Kansas amazingly well. She is a true helpmate for her hustling husband and is content with her chickens, butter making and the domestic department of a large farm, and much prefers the life to that of a crowded and overrun city.







## .... Pawnee Rock ....



**F**OURTEEN miles southwest of Great Bend, in one of the richest agricultural sections of Barton County is the town of Pawnee Rock. It derives its name from the historic cliff of sand-stone that for countless ages has stood a silent sentinel of the plains, just north of what is now the townsite. It was a stopping place for the hardy men and women who came from their eastern homes to find wealth and fortune in the boundless west, and the entire length of the Santa Fe Trail, noted for its historic points of interest affords no spot that has woven around it more real history of the early days than this old pile of rock.

Before the advent of the white man it marked a way for the Indians in their periodical

witness to the bloody history that was made before civilization claimed it for the abode of the white man.

### BEGINNING OF THE TOWN

The first building to be erected on the site in this part of the Great American Desert, of the town of Pawnee Rock was the Rock Hotel which still stands today and has been the stopping place of hundreds of old timers who came to this part of the country in the early days, and it has housed some famous men and women since it was built in 1874.

The town grew in population and area, slowly at first but in 1887 the progressive citizens of the town began the work that resulted



Pawnee Rock School Building

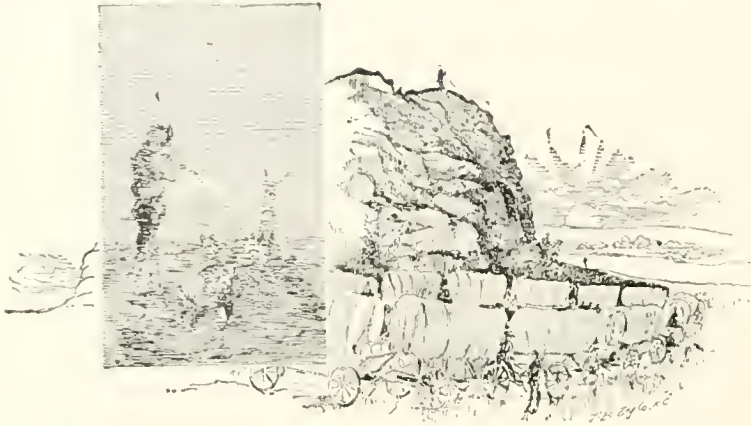
migrations from what is now Southern Kansas to the valley of the Platte river in Nebraska. For years and years Pawnee Rock was a point at which the Comanche, Kiowa, Arapahoe and Cheyenne Indians held their councils of war and peace. Within the shadow of Pawnee Rock many famous Indian battles were fought, battles that never found a place in United States history, but were described to the early white settlers, by descendants of the noble warriors of the plains who took part in them. Countless bones have been dug out of the soil adjacent to the Rock, and they bear

in the town being incorporated. The first set of officers were elected April 1, 1887. Previous to the election a rather exciting campaign was carried on by the two opposing factions, the main issue being pool rooms, and whether or not they should continue in the town. There were two tickets in the field and after the votes had been counted it was found that a part of each ticket had been elected and the first council of Pawnee Rock was composed of the following gentlemen, all of them men who had an interest in the town and stood for progress and growth: William Bunting,

mayor; L. K. Benefield, John Hepler, William McDougal, W. H. Bowman and William Walton, councilmen.

At one of the first meetings of the council the following city officers were named and sworn in to serve: J. D. Welch, city clerk;

At this writing Pawnee Rock has three general stores, two banks, two furniture stores, two hardware stores, five elevators, a fine electric light and ice plant, owned and operated by home people, three churches, Christian, Methodist, New Jerusalem, fine public schools



Pawnee Rock in 1859

J. W. Ratcliff, city attorney; Alvin Hes, city marshal; Earnest Smith, city treasurer.

This administration laid the foundation for the building of one of the most important small towns on the main line of the A. T. & S. F. Railroad.

The first elevator in the town was built

and everything and more than is found in many towns of twice its population.

The present officers of Pawnee Rock are: John Bowman, mayor; A. S. Gross, clerk; R. G. McDougal, E. L. Robinson, W. C. Lamb and Grant Lippincott, councilmen.

Pawnee Rock contains some of the nicest and most modern residences in Barton County. It is a supply point for a large territory in Barton, Pawnee and Stafford counties and as a shipping point for grain, cattle and other live stock it ranks well up among the best in this part of the state.



Pawnee Rock In 1878

in the year 1878 by W. H. Bowman, Aaron Garvick and Eli Bowman. They also built a flour mill and operated it until 1899 when it was purchased from them and moved to Garfield, near Larned. The year 1878 was a good one for the town, many new buildings having been erected, some of them fine residences.

From Inman's Tales of the Trail: "If this sentinel of the plains might speak, what a story it could tell of the events that have happened on the beautiful prairie stretching out for miles at its feet. All over its scarred and weatherbeaten front, carved in quaint and rude letters, are the names of hundreds who in early days made the dangerous and exciting passage of the Santa Fe Trail. Some names are roughly chiseled there, too, who were not ambitious at the time of more enduring fame, and gave no further thought of their effort than was concentrated in the bare idea of relief from the ennui of the moment, while their horses and mules were resting, but who will go down to history cursed or praised—as viewed from varying aspects—long after the storm of centuries shall have obliterated every mark of this isolated mass of sandstone. Conspicuous among these is that of Robert E. Lee, the famous leader of the Confederate armies, who, in 1843, crossed into the borders of Mexico as an officer of the Mounted Rifles. Under the shadow of Pawnee Rock, perhaps Coronado, the celebrated Spanish explorer, and his little band of faithful followers rested on their lone-

ly march in search of the mythical Quivira. The Rock alone is all that remains, in all probability, upon which the Spaniards looked, for the mighty interval of nearly four hundred years relegated all else—trees, water courses and the entire landscape, that the hardy adventurers looked upon, to the domination of vast modification—and this iron-bound hill—whose

manches, Arrapahoes and Cheyennes made their not infrequent successful raids upon the pack and wagon trains of the freighters across the continent. I well remember, in the earlier geographies, that most exciting and sensational of all the illustrations—to my boyish mind at least—which depicted the Santa Fe traders attacked by Indians, but that was long ago,



Bird's Eye View of Pawnee Rock—Half View

unsusceptibility to change is almost as the earth itself—the only witness of their famous march.

"During the half century included between the years 1823-73—which latter date marked the advent of the railroad in this portion of

and such scenes have passed away forever.

"In those primitive days of the border, Kit Carson, Lucien B. Maxwell, John Smith, the Bents and the Boones, with other frontiersmen, commenced their eventful lives in the far West—mere boys then—but whose ex-



Bird's Eye View of Pawnee Rock Today—Half View

Kansas—Pawnee Rock was considered the most dangerous place on the central plains for encounters with the Indians, as at this particular point on the Trail the Pawnees, Kiowas, Co-

plotts have since made for them a world-wide reputation. Kit Carson, Maxwell, Smith and Bents are all dead with the harness on, and on the confines of the civilization which is rap-



idly closing up the gap at the foot of the mountains, amidst which there would have been nothing congenial—so they passed away while there still remained fresh prairies and quiet streams.

"Kit, one of the most noble men it has been my fortune to know, is sleeping peacefully under the gnarled old Cottonwoods at Fort Lyon, on the Arkansas that river he loved so well—every foot of whose silent margin could tell a story of his daring. It was at Pawnee Rock many, many years ago, that Kit, then a mere boy, had his first experience with the Indians, and it was because of this fight that the Rock received its name.

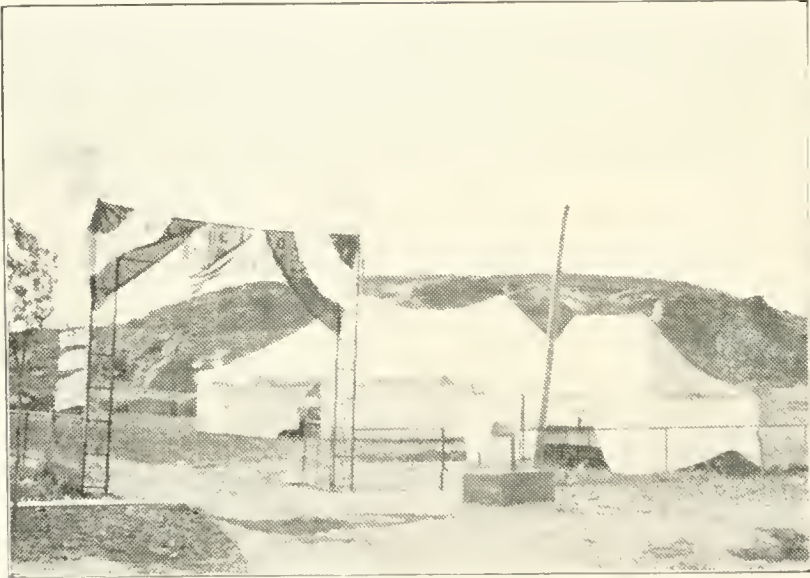
"In those days the Pawnees were the most formidable tribe on the eastern plains, and the freighters and trappers rarely escaped a skirmish with them either at the crossing of the Walnut, Pawnee Fork, or at Little or Big Coon creeks. Today the historic hill looks

in the long years gone by sometimes the bones of the white man, sometimes the bones of the red man were plowed up; and even now where new fields are opened, the Rock thus gradually unfolds the sphinx-like secrets of its dead."

## PRESERVING THE ROCK

In the year of 1908, the Women's Kansas Day Club contracted with the owner of Pawnee Rock, to raise \$3,000 to improve Pawnee Rock, and he was to deed about five acres to the state park to be open to the public at all times. The monument was to cost not less than \$1,500. The entire expense has been about \$4,700 and the citizens of Pawnee Rock have raised \$1,500 of this amount.

Pawnee Rock covers about four acres and rises abruptly from the surrounding valley.



Entrance to Pawnee Rock Park

down only upon peaceful homes and fruitful fields where for hundreds of years it could tell of nothing but death; where almost every yard of the brown sod at its base covered a grave; where there was nothing but shadow, now all is sunlight. In place of the horrid yell of the savage, as he wrenched the reeking scalp from his vanquished victim, the whistle of the locomotive and the pleasing whirr of the reaping machine is heard; where the death cry of the painted warrior rang mournfully over the silent prairie, the waving grain is singing in beautiful rhythm as it blows to the summer breeze. Almost every day in the opening spring, or before the grain planting in the early fall for several years during the first settlement of the country in the vicinity of Pawnee Rock, the skeletons of those killed there

It is about fifty or sixty feet in height and on its summit stands a granite shaft, towering thirty feet in the air, placed in honor of those who in the long ago blazed the way for civilization.

Pawnee Rock has changed through the agency of man, much since the advent of the railroad. Its once lofty summit has been stripped and the stone used for all sorts of purposes by the railroad and others, until now, if some of the old scouts and Indian hunters were to review it, they would not recognize it as the scene of their earlier lives.

On May 24, 1912, the monument situated on Pawnee Rock, was unveiled and dedicated to the State of Kansas, of which event, a program of the services will be found elsewhere in this book.

With the coming of the Santa Fe Railroad, began the destruction of the Rock, much of it having been moved by the railroad company to build foundations for water tanks, depots, etc. A great deal of the Rock was used in the construction of buildings by the early set-

tlers, but early in this century the patriotic people of Pawnee Rock realized that if something was not done soon the Rock would have been entirely obliterated from the landscape.

Womans Kansas Day Club, the Womans Relief Corps, Daughters of the American Revolution, State Federation of Womans Clubs and individual citizens, the land was finally ob-



M. E. Church Pawnee Rock

blers, but early in this century the patriotic people of Pawnee Rock realized that if something was not done soon the Rock would have been entirely obliterated from the landscape.



New Jerusalem Church Pawnee Rock

In 1905 and 1906, a movement began that had for its purpose the creating of a public park to be composed of the land surrounding the Rock and being about five acres in area. The

matter was taken up with the governor, and members of the state legislature. However the owner of the land wanted too much money to relinquish his title and in spite of all these patriotic citizens could do the matter dragged along until 1911, when with the aid of the

tained. On May 24, 1912, a magnificent monument was unveiled in the park in the presence of 8,000 people from all parts of the State of Kansas.

### How the Money Was Raised

The following table shows how the money was raised that made the preservation of what remained of the Rock possible.

|                                                                                             |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Mrs. J. S. Simmons, president, 1908, and members of the Park Board to 1912.....             | \$2738.51 |
| Mrs. A. H. Horton, president, 1909.....                                                     | 100.00    |
| Mrs. E. W. Hoch, president 1910.....                                                        | 200.00    |
| Mrs. Cora G. Lewis, president 1912.....                                                     | 55.00     |
| Total .....                                                                                 | \$3093.51 |
| Daughters of American Revolution, one Bronze tablet valued at \$50, cash \$155, total ..... | \$ 205.00 |
| Woman's Relief Corps, the flag that veiled the monument and.....                            | 159.09    |
| State Federation of Womens' Clubs..                                                         | 50.00     |
| W. C. T. U.....                                                                             | 50.00     |
| Citizens of Pawnee Rock.....                                                                | 1359.34   |

the spring of 1872. Hundreds of names had been carved up in it, some of them dating back, I remember, as far as 125 years ago. It seems incredible that people should be so devoid of sentiment as to blast and destroy a historic monument like this for ballast and other commercial purposes. Better, a thousand times to have bauld the stone a thousand miles than to have done this.

I was one of 14 young fellows who built the first house and dug the first well in Pawnee Rock, and will be glad to do anything I can to preserve what remains of the historic relic of the old trail.

Cordially yours, E. W. HOCH.

### PAWNEE ROCK'S BIG DAY

The unveiling of the monument erected in Pawnee Rock park to the memory of the pion-



### Pawnee Rock, May 24, 1912, When Monument Was Unveiled

Money paid into the fund from sales of "Echoes of Pawnee Rock," compiled by Miss Margaret Perkins, and all expenses of publishing, shipping, mailing, etc., paid for by Mrs. J. S. Simmons, president of W. K. D. C., with money from proceeds of sale of said book, approximately \$800 above all expenses.

Total receipts.....\$5715.65

The following letter from Governor Hoch written in 1905 shows how the interest in the matter was aroused in the state's chief executive. It required years of hard work after this time however to get the matter adjusted in a way that brought the work to such a successful conclusion on the date mentioned:

State of Kansas, E. W. Hoch, Governor, Topeka, July 25, 1905.

Mr. T. H. Brewer, Pawnee Rock, Kansas.  
My Dear Sir: I share most heartily with you the sentiment of your letter concerning the preservation of what remains of old Pawnee Rock. I remember it well as I first saw it in

eers who withstood the hardships and fought the battle that resulted in making this part of the State of Kansas one of the leading agricultural sections of the world was witnessed by fully 8,000 people. Some of them came from distant states to take part in the celebration and as was truthfully said by one of the speakers of the day, "It is Pawnee Rock's supreme moment, and the greatest day in her history." May 24, 1912, was the date chosen by those who had the arrangements in charge, and the elements seemed to enter into the spirit of the occasion and it resulted in an ideal day. All day long the air was filled with music and promptly at 1:30 in the afternoon, the big flag that had been wound around the shaft was pulled aside and the park became the property of the people of the State of Kansas, a permanent memorial had been erected to the memory of the pioneers and what remained of Pawnee Rock was protected for all time against further destruction and will remain to



attract the eyes of countless thousands yet to come.

F. C. Woodbury, one of the leading citizens of Pawnee Rock and to whom great credit is due for arranging and carrying out the celebration program gave the address of welcome. He paid a beautiful tribute to the pioneers and welcomed the people to the city in a way that made a deep impression.

Mr. Woodbury introduced Mrs. George Barker of Lawrence, Kansas, who told in an interesting manner the part the women had played in securing the ground for the park and the money for the monument. She compared the old and the new Pawnee Rock, and while she spoke the words that made this historic spot and the beautiful monument the property of the State of Kansas, the ropes were pulled that released the flag and it fell away.

Lieutenant Governor Richard Hopkins followed Mrs. Barker and accepted the park and monument on behalf of the people of the state. He painted a beautiful word picture that made a lasting impression on those who heard it.

The young people were afforded all kinds of entertainment. There was a Ferris wheel, a merry-go-round, a ball on ascension, a base ball game and dozens of other features to make the day one of fun and frolic.

The speech of Mrs. Milo D. McKee of Independence, who acted in lieu of Mrs. George Guensey, state president of the D. A. R. of Kansas who followed Governor Hopkins was especially fine. She brought greetings from 1,500 women, and she asserted that in the history of battle fields, there was record of no greater one than Kansas. The best money a state can spend, she said, in closing, is that used in inculcating patriotism and reverence.

Mrs. Cora Deputy, a past state president of the Womens' Relief Corps, speaking in behalf of Mrs. L. A. Mendricks, the president, gave a patriotic address and presented a flag to the city, a gift of the state W. R. C.

Perhaps no speech of the afternoon was better received than that made by Mrs. W. D. Atkinson of Parsons, president of the State Federation of Womens' Clubs. Six thousand women she represented, and as a native Kansan she spoke with feeling and authority on pioneer life as lived by her parents. The keynote of her speech was the keynote of the afternoon: "We necessarily are living largely in the past today, with Coronado, in Quivera, with Pike, the emigrants, the '74ers, the pioneers."

Mrs. C. W. Mitchner, state president of the W. C. T. U., told how proud she was to bring the best wishes of the 10,000 women of the state union to Kansas, "higher in per capita, lowest in death rate, lowest in illiteracy, highest in college education; the state where 25,000 school children never saw an open saloon."

History and reminiscences of remarkable interest filled the remarks of Mike Sweeney of Pawnee Rock, who has lived 4 years in the western land, and saw the Rock in all its original highness. He introduced ex-Gov. E. W.



Marker On Santa Fe Trail Near Pawnee Rock

Hoch, who gave the address of the afternoon.

In the beginning Governor Hoch took occasion to say how much he disliked the task of following his feminine predecessors, and trying to "live up to them."

"If I had not been for suffrage before (as I always have been,") he asserted, "I should certainly have been converted this afternoon, for such eloquent speeches argue as intelligent use of the ballot as man can exercise."

Judge D. A. Banta of Great Bend closed the speaking program with a few remarks which were well received. He told how the men should feel ashamed that they had allowed the women of the state to accomplish something in the way of preserving the Rock which should have been done before it had been despoiled of a great deal of its beauty and historic features.

## JIM GIBSON'S THRILLING EXPERIENCE

From Inman's Tales of the Trail

**I**T was old Jim Gibson poor fellow—he went under in a fight with the Utes over twenty years ago, and his bones are bleaching somewhere in the dark canyons of the range, or on the slopes of the Spanish Peaks. He used to tell of a skirmish he and another fellow had on the Arkansas with the



Kiowas in 1836. Jim and his partner, Bill—other name unknown—had been trapping up in the Powder river country during the winter, with unusual good luck. The beaver were mighty thick in the whole Yellowstone region, in those days. Jim and Bill got an early start on their journey for the river in the early spring. You see they expected to sell their stuff in western Missouri, which was the principal trading point on the river then. They walked the whole distance—over fifteen hundred miles—driving three good mules before them, on which their plunder was packed, and they got along well until they struck the Arkansas river at Pawnee Rock. Here they met a war party of about sixty Kiowas, who treed them on the Rock. Jim and Bill were brave and dead shots.

"Before they reached the Rock to which they were driven they killed ten of the Kiowas, and had not received a scratch. They had plenty of powder and two pouches full of bullets. They also had a couple of Jack rabbits for food in case of siege, and the perpendicular walls of the Rock made them a natural fortification, and one that was almost impregnable. They succeeded in securely picketing their animals on the west side of the Rock, where they could protect them by their unerring rifles, but the story of the fight must be told in Jim's own way. He was a pretty well educated fellow and had been to college. I believe in his younger days he lost the girl he was going to marry, or had some bad luck

"After the durned red cusses had treed us, they picked up their dead and packed them to their camp, at the mouth of the creek a little



WM. F. CODY, (Buffalo Bill)  
He Scouted This Country for the U. S. A.



O-Ton-Sane-Var, Chief of Kiowas

or other and took to the prairie when he was about twenty years of age. I will try to tell it as near as possible as he told it to me.

piece off. In a few minutes, back they all came, mounted with their fixings and war paint on. Then, they commenced to circle around us coming closer, Indian fashion every time, until they got within easy rifle range, when they slung themselves on the far sides of their ponies and in that position opened on us. Their arrows fell like a hail storm around us for a few minutes, but as good luck would have it none of them struck. I was afraid that first of all they would attempt to kill our mules, but I suppose they thought they had the dead wood on us and the mules would come mighty handy for their own use, after our scalps were dangling at their belts. We were taking in all the chances and whenever we saw a leg or head we would draw a bead on it and would tumble its owner over every time, with a yell of rage. Whenever they attempted to carry off their dead, that was the moment we took the advantage, and we poured it into them as they rallied for that purpose, with telling effect. We wasted no shots, and we now had only about twenty bullets between us, and the miserable cusses seemed as thick as ever. The sun was nearly down by this time, and at dark they did not seem anxious to renew fight. I could see their mounted patrols at a respectful distance watching to prevent our escape. I took advantage of the darkness to go down

and get a few buffalo chips to cook our supper as we were mighty hungry, and we changed the animals to where they could get a little more grass. I got to our camp on top without any trouble, when we made a little fire and cooked a rabbit. We had to go without water and so did the animals, though we did not mind the want of it ourselves. We pitied the mules which had had no water since we broke camp that morning. It was no use to worry about it as the nearest water was the spring at the Indians' camp, and it would be certain death to attempt to get there. I was afraid the red devils would fire the prairie the next morning, and endeavor to burn us out. The grass was in a condition to make a lively blaze. We might escape the flames and we might not. We watched with eager eyes the first gray streaks of dawn, that would usher in another day. Perhaps the last one for us. The next morning the sun had scarcely got above the horizon when, with an infernal yell the Indians broke for the Rock and we knew that some new idea had entered into their heads. The wind was springing up fresh and nature seemed to conspire with the red devils if they really meant to burn us out, and I had no doubt from their movements that that was what they intended doing. The durned cusses kept at such a respectful distance from our rifles that it chafed us to know that we could not stop the infernal throats of some of them with our bullets. We had to choke our rage and watch events closely. I took occasion during the lull in hostilities to crawl down to where the mules were and shift them to the east side of the Rock where the wall was the highest, so that the flames of the smoke might possibly pass by them without so much danger as on the exposed other side. I succeeded in doing this and also in tearing away the grass for several yards around the animals, and was just starting back when Bill called out, "They have fired the prairie." I reached the top of the rock in a moment and took in at a glance what was coming. The spectacle for a short interval was indescribable. The sun was shining with all its power on a huge cloud of smoke as it rolled down from the north. I had barely time to get under the shelter of the Rock when the wind and smoke swept down to the ground and incidentally we were enveloped in the darkness of midnight. We could not see a single object, neither Indian, horses, prairie or sun and what a terrible wind. I have never experienced its equal in violence since. We stood breathless, clinging to the mass of rock and did not realize that the fire was so near until we were struck in the face by the burning buffalo chips that were carried towards us with the rapidity of the wind. I was really scared as it seemed we must suffocate, but we were saved, the sheet of flame passed us twenty yards away, as the wind fortunately shifted when the fire reached the Rock. Yet the darkness was so perfect that we did not see the flames.

We only knew that we were safe as the clear sky greeted us behind the dense cloud of smoke. Two of the Indians and their horses were caught in their own trap and perished miserably. They had attempted to reach the east side of the Rock where the mules were, either to cut them loose or crawl up on us while we were bewildered in the smoke. They had proceeded only a few yards when the terrible darkness of the smoke cloud overtook them. The fire assumed such gigantic proportions and moved with such rapidity before the terrible wind that even the Arkansas river did not stop it for a moment, and we watched it carried across the water.

"My first thought after the danger had passed was of the poor mules. I crawled down to where they were and found them badly singed. They were not seriously injured however, and I thought so far so good. Our traps and things were all right so we took courage and began to think that we could get out of the nasty scrape. In the meantime the Indians with the exception of four or five, left to guard the Rock, had gone back to their camp on the creek, and were evidently conceiving some new scheme to capture or kill us. We waited patiently for two or three hours for the development of events, snatching a little sleep by turns until the sun was about four hours high, when the Indians commenced their yelling again, and we knew they had hit upon something, so we were on the alert. The devils this time had tied all their horses together, covered them with branches of trees that they had cut on the creek, packed all the lodge skins on these and then driving the living breast works towards us themselves followed close behind on foot. They kept moving in the direction of the Rock and matters began to look serious.

"Bill put his hand in mine and said, "Jim boy, we got to fight, we aint done nothin' yet, but this means business." I said, "Bill, you are right, old fellow, but they cannot get us alive. Our plan was to kill their ponies and make them halt. As I spoke, Bill, who was one of the best shots on the plains, threw his eye along the barrel of his rifle and one of the ponies tumbled over in the blackened sod. One of the Indians ran out to cut him loose, as I suspected, and I took him clean off his feet without a groan. Quicker than it takes to tell it we stretched out twelve of them on the plains and then they began a council of war. We watched the devils' movements for we knew they would soon be busy again. The others did not make their appearance immediately from behind their living breastworks, so we fired and killed some of the horses. The Indians drew away and after holding a consultation we saw one of their number approaching. He held aloft a part of his white blanket, in token of peace. He came within hearing and asked us to talk with him. We answered yes. We could expect very little and were surprised at the proposition made to us.

He came nearer and said the war chief leading them was old O'Ton-Sone-Var and "wants you to come to their camp, and the tribe will adopt you as you are brave men." He also added that they were on their way to the Sioux country north of the Platte and were going there to steal horses from the Sioux. They expected a fight and wanted us to help them. Bill and I knew them too well to swallow their chaff so we told him we could not think of accepting their terms. We told him to go back

O'Ton-Sone-Var has said it and the word of the Kiowa is true.' 'When must the trial take place,' said I. 'When the sun begins to shine upon the western edge of the Rock,' replied the Indian. 'Say to your chief we will accept the challenge and will be ready,' said Bill, motioning the warrior away.

"I am sure I can win, said Bill and can save our lives. O'Ton-Sone-Var will keep his word.' 'I know him.' 'Bill, said I, 'I shall run that race' and taking him by the hand I told



Christian Church Pawnee Rock

and tell his chief to begin the fight again as soon as they pleased. He started back and before he had reached the creek they came out and met him, had a confab and then began the attack on us at once. We made each of our four leads tell and then stood at bay almost helpless. We were at their mercy. We began throwing stones and held them off for a short time. Then another white flag appeared and they wanted to talk some more.

"We knew that we must accept most anything they offered. One of their number spoke and told us that the Kiowas were not prisoners and they know brave men. 'We will not kill you, though the grass is red with the blood of our warriors who died at your hands. We will give you a chance for your lives and let you prove that the Great Spirit of the white man is powerful and can save you.' 'Behold,' said the Indian pointing to a cottonwood tree that stood on the bank of the river, a mile or more away. 'You must go there and one of you shall run the knife gauntlet from that tree two hundred steps of the chief towards the prairie. If the one who runs escapes both are free, for the Great Spirit has willed it.

him that if he saw I was going to fail to watch his chance and in the excitement of the moment mount one of their horses and fly to Bent's Fort. He could escape. He was young, it made no difference with my life as it was not worth much, but he had all before him. 'No,' replied Bill, 'my heart is set on this. I traveled the same race once before when the Apaches got me, and their knives never struck me once. I asked this favor for I know how to take advantage of them and can win.' The sun had scarcely gilded that portion of the Rock that puts out toward the west before all the warriors with O'Ten-Sone-Var at their head marched silently towards the tree and beckoned us to come. We soon were beside them when they opened a space and we walked in their center without saying a word. There were only thirty left of the band of warriors. The Indians were worked up to an awful pitch and wanted to avenge their dead but the chief kept them from it. As soon as we reached the tree, the chief paced the two hundred steps and arranged his warriors on either side who in a moment stripped themselves to the waist and each seizing his long



scalping knife and bracing himself held it high over his head so as to strike a hard blow. The question of who should be their victims was settled immediately, for as I stepped forward, the chief signalled me back and pointing to Bill told him he should make the trial. I protested but the chief was firm. The two rows of savages stood firm, their knives held high with vengeance gleaming in their eyes. It looked almost hopeless. It was truly a race for life. As Bill prepared himself I wished ourselves back on the Rock. Bill was cool and collected and had a perfect faith in the result. The chief motioned Bill to start. Bill tightened his belt and looked down the double row of Indians with their upheld knives. It seemed an age to me and when Bill started I was forced by an irresistible power to look upon the scene. At the instant Bill darted like a streak of lightning from the

base of the tree and cutting at poor Bill the Indians tried their hardest to kill him. Bill evaded their efforts. He tossed savages here and there and now creeping like a snake he squirmed through the lines for a distance, then leaping like a wild-cat he passed more of the red men who were bent on taking his life and finally he reached the place where the chief stood and passed through the terrible ordeal unharmed. I threw myself into his arms and gave thanks. The chief motioned the warriors away and with sullen footsteps followed them. In a few moments we retraced our way to the Rock where our mules still were. We then passed on in the direction of the Missouri. We camped on the banks of the river that night only a few miles from the Rock and while we were resting we could still hear the Kiowas chanting the death song as they buried their lost warriors under the sod of the prairie."

### WILLIAM S. M'DOUGAL

**W**ILLIAM S. M'DOUGAL was born in Wood County, West Virginia, September 5, 1844, and came to Pawnee County when he was thirty-three years of age. He located a homestead in section 18-22-14, which is on the line dividing Pawnee and Stafford counties. He farmed this land for eight years and then came to Barton county and located at Pawnee Rock. He was in the livery business in Pawnee Rock for sixteen years. He sold out and retired about twelve years ago. Since that time he has looked after his farming interests, owning 400 acres of land in Pawnee and Barton counties. He was married in 1872 in West Virginia to Miss Maggie Uhl and they are the parents of three children

as follows: Romey, 42 years of age, is engaged in the hack line business in Great Bend; Dora, 32 years of age, is now Mrs. Henry T. Ratcliff of Hutchinson and Goldie, 22 years of age, resides at home. Mr. McDougal is one of those men who made up the pioneers of this section of Kansas as he came here at a time when the Indians and buffalo were still disputing the advance of the white man and he has seen this section grow from an almost barren waste to its present high state of cultivation. Mr. McDougal has always been identified with the progressive element in this part of the state and is one of the best known men in Barton County where he has lived for twenty-seven years. All of his farming land is be-



Going and Coming of Autos, Pawnee Rock, May 24, 1912



ing worked by renters and in addition to these holdings he has a fine ten room residence in a most desirable location in Pawnee Rock. He is one of the boosters of the town who never tires of speaking a good word for Pawnee Rock and Barton County. He has served the town as councilman and always taken an active part in all public matters and is an enterprising and progressive citizen. Mr. McDou-

gal is one of the men who came to this section at a time when it required nerve to stay and battle it out with the many adverse conditions with which the old timers had to contend. He did so however and his success is due to good management and an unflinching faith in the future of this section and could see this county where it is today, one of the best in the State of Kansas.

## FARMERS AND MERCHANTS STATE BANK

**B**OWNS and cities are often judged by their banking institutions, and in the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Pawnee Rock, the people of that section of the county have an institution that meets every demand made upon it, and by straightforward business methods has gained a most enviable reputation in all parts of Barton County. This bank was organized in 1908 by gentlemen who have had a great deal to do with the develop-

ed by this establishment, and in addition to this the deposits are guaranteed by the Bank Depositors' Guaranty Fund of the State of Kansas. This is a strictly home institution, all the stock in the bank being owned by men who have made this section of Kansas one of the most important in the state. The officers of this bank are men who stand high in the commercial and financial life of Barton County and are known for their progressive methods



Farmers and Merchants State Bank

ment of the county's resources and the up-building of Pawnee Rock. This bank was organized with a capital of \$15,000 and the deposits have grown larger each year and when the April, 1912 statement was issued it showed a total of approximately \$132,000, the capital and surplus at the same time being \$20,000. This bank occupies a fine brick building in the center of town. The building was arranged especially for banking purposes and contains modern, up-to-date fixtures. The latest style Manganese steel vault assures the safety of all money and valuables left at this bank. All the safeguards that are usually found in a progressive banking establishment are maintain-

and public spiritedness. Customers of this bank are granted every accommodation that is consistent with safe banking methods. The officers of this bank are: H. H. Woodbury, president; D. R. Logan, vice-president; F. C. Woodbury, cashier. The directors are: W. H. Bowman, T. H. Brewer, G. F. Spreier, George Smith, George Washer, D. R. Logan, and H. H. Woodbury. This bank has won its high standing in the county by conducting a general banking business according to the most approved methods, and by making of the establishment a bank for all the people of the territory adjacent to Pawnee Rock.

## PAWNEE ROCK STATE BANK

**B**ARTON County is noted for its sound, substantial banking institutions and there is none that stands better with the people of the county than the Pawnee Rock State Bank which was organized in August, 1901. It was the first bank in the town and was made possible by E. R. and G. N. Moses, Robert Merten, Peter Bloom, Charles Gano, J. T. Kell, M. E. Heynes and other well men who took a leading part in the commercial life of the county. All of the organizers with the exception of the first two named are pioneers of Pawnee Rock while the Moses Brothers helped develop that part of the county lying closely adjacent to Great Bend. The bank was

steel safe and as additional protection the bank is equipped with an electric burglar alarm system which renders it absolutely impregnable to burglars. On top of all this the depositors in this bank are secured by the Bank Depositors' Guaranty Fund of the State of Kansas. This bank offers exceptional advantages to new depositors. It pays liberal interest on savings and time deposits and grants to customers every favor that is in keeping with safe banking methods. These features have made this bank popular with the people of Pawnee Rock and vicinity and is a great aid in teaching the young people that the only dollars worth two hundred cents are



Pawnee Rock State Bank

organized with a capital of \$5,000, which has been increased to \$25,000 from the earnings and not by assessment of the stockholders. It now has a surplus of \$3,000 and deposits of approximately \$95,000. The bank has grown steadily since it was organized and has gained the confidence of its patrons by square deal methods and untiring efforts in meeting every demand made upon it by customers. The bank occupies a fine brick building on the Main street. It has a modern steel lined vault, which contains the latest improved Manganese

these saved in youth. The officers of this bank are: E. R. Moses, president; Peter Bloom, vice-president; A. Dring, cashier and A. S. Gross, assistant cashier. The directors are E. R. Moses, Jr., J. T. Kell, E. R. Moses, Peter Bloom and Robert Merten. All of these are men who enjoy the utmost confidence of the people of Barton County as they are among the men who made this county one of the best in the State of Kansas and are well and favorably known in the commercial and financial life of the state. This bank has en-

joyed its growth from the fact that it is a home institution officered and owned by home people and conducted for the people of Pawnee Rock and this section of the county. The suc-

cess of this bank is due to the enterprise of its stockholders and officers who have gained the confidence of the people.

## GRANT LIPPINCOTT

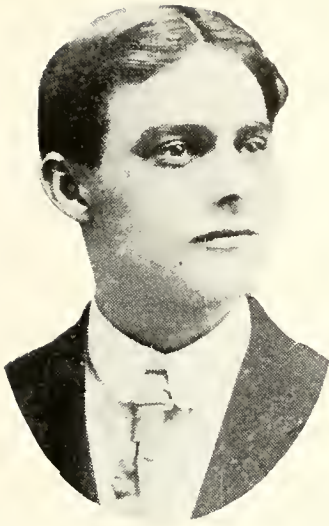
ONE of the well known newspaper men of Western Kansas, and one who is always working for the interests of his paper and the town in which it is published is Grant Lippincott, publisher and proprietor of the Pawnee Rock Herald. Grant, as he is best known, was born in Atchison County, Kansas, February 7, 1884; his father being J. H. Lippincott who had a great deal to do with making the history of Grant's home county until 1893 when he went to Oklahoma where he now resides. Grant came to Barton County in 1904

and established the paper known as the Herald, in Pawnee Rock and since that time has taken an active part in the affairs of his town and county. He learned the printing trade in Hutchinson where he spent four years as an employee of the Hutchinson News. He is an expert printer, a brilliant writer and stands for the principles which he thinks are best for the majority. He was married September 2, 1908, to Miss Myrtle L. Woelk whose parents live seven miles southeast of Pawnee Rock and are old timers of that section of the state.



The Editorial Twins





Grant Lippincott, Proprietor of The Pawnee Rock Herald

### THOMAS HENDERSON BREWER

**T**HOMAS HENDERSON BREWER was born October 5, 1844, in Morgan County, Indiana. He left there when he was twelve years of age and went to Iowa with his parents where he remained until the family came to Kansas in 1857. They first located in Nemaha County where the elder Brewer engaged in farming. In September, 1862 Mr. Brewer enlisted in the 12th Kansas regiment and was a member of Co. G. He served throughout the war and in addition to service that was most active in Arkansas and Missouri he took part in the battle of Prairie Grove one of the big engagements in the State of Arkansas. Shortly after the war he went to Nebraska where he remained for seven years. In the fall of 1876 he came to Barton County and located at Great Bend where he engaged in the blacksmithing business. He was there for two years and in the spring of 1878 he purchased railroad land in Pawnee Rock township, buying the southeast quarter of section 23. He farmed until a short time ago when he retired and now occupies one of the nicest residences in Pawnee Rock. He was married December 22, 1867 to Miss Margaret E. Cummins of Nemaha County and they are the parents of six children: Ora A.,

Grant and his wife are naturally proud of their twin boys, Virgil Alvus and Wilbur Alfred. They were born August 25, 1910, and are children of whom anybody could be proud. Mr. Lippincott has been a member of the city council and has also served the town as clerk for two terms. He is a prominent member of the Masonic order, and belongs to the lodge at Larned. He is also a member of the Great Bend Lodge of Elks, is a Knight of Pythias and a member of the Yeoman lodge. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen and took an active part in the work that finally resulted in having Pawnee Rock, or what remains of it, in 1912, preserved as a historic point on the old Santa Fe Trail. Since he came to Pawnee Rock he has done a great deal to further the interests of the town not only through the columns of his newspaper but by his personal efforts.

41 years of age, is now in Helena, Ok.; Eunice, 39 years of age, is now Mrs. Albert Lile of Pawnee Rock; Emma, 38 years of age, is now Mrs. Charles Ross also of Pawnee Rock; Charles, 36 years of age, is living at Pryor, Oklahoma; Maggie, 31 years of age is now Mrs. H. E. Purlee of Red Bluff, California; Jessie, 29 years of age, is Mrs. C. T. Belt and resides a short distance north of Pawnee Rock. Mr. Brewer owns a half section of land well improved in this county and a half interest in a half section in Hodgeman County. He is one of the directors of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and owns in addition to his residence another house and lot in the west part of town. Mr. Brewer takes an active part in all public matters and was probate judge of this county from 1890 to 1895. His residence contains eight rooms in addition to bath, closets, pantries, etc. Mr. Brewer is one of the best known men in this part of the state and has done a great deal in developing the resources of the county and making of Pawnee Rock one of the important towns of the county. He is one of the really old timers who saw this county grow from an almost barren waste to its present high state of cultivation.

### NEWTON PHILLIP SMITH

**N**EWTON PHILLIP SMITH was born September 7, 1856, in Woodford County, Kentucky. He remained in his native state until he was fifteen years of age at which time he came to Barton County. This was in 1872 and he saw the county grow from an abode of buffalo and Indians to its present high state of cultivation. After he had been here a few years he pre-empted a claim of 80 acres in section 10, Pawnee Rock township and also the same amount of land in section

25 of the same township. He ran a threshing machine and farmed for a number of years and in 1890 established a blacksmithing and repairing shop in Pawnee Rock. This is the pioneer shop of that section of the county and the work that is turned out there is known all over the county as the best that can be obtained. It was while he was constable, an office that he held for several years that he broke up the Taylor gang of outlaws and horse thieves. This gang, led by George Taylor,



terrorized this section of the country for a long time until Mr. Smith took up their trail, and finally located them south of Fort Supply where he rounded up the gang and recovered

of age, a contractor and builder who has built some of the finest buildings in Pawnee Rock among them being the school building and all the good buildings in the town; Garfield, 32



Threshing Outfit of Newt. Smith, Taken in the Early 80's

a number of horses belonging near Pawnee Rock. This was one of the most desperate gangs that ever infested this part of the state and before they were captured it was necessary to kill their leader. For this excellent work Mr. Smith received many words of praise and the heartfelt thanks of the entire community. He also served as city marshal of Pawnee Rock an office in which he made a most enviable record. He was married in 1878 to Miss Mary Jane Lile and they are the parents of four children: Edwin G., 33 years

years of age, aids his father in the blacksmith shop and is a skilled workman; Earl, 25 years of age, is manager of the Rock Mill and Elevator Company's interests in Great Bend; Blaine, 28 years of age, is a clerk in one of the biggest stores in Pawnee Rock. Mr. Smith has always been an enterprising and progressive citizen and is one of the really old timers of this section of the state and has had no small part in making of Barton County one of the best in the State of Kansas.

### JAMES H. FLICK

**I**F the men who have taken an active part in the upbuilding of Pawnee Rock and the development of Barton County none is better known than the subject of this sketch, James H. Flick. Mr. Flick was born October 10, 1851, in Lycoming County, Pa. When he was thirteen years old the family moved to Illinois where James remained for twenty years. He came from there to Barton County in 1887. He took up a homestead and bought land near Pawnee Rock and at once took a part in the development of the county's resources. His old home is now known as the Fish place, he having disposed of all his farming interests several years ago when he moved to Pawnee Rock and went into the hotel business, and it is safe to say that there is no hotel

in the state that is better known than the Rock Hotel of Pawnee Rock. He still owns the hotel building but gave up the operating of it six years ago. In addition to the hotel Mr. Flick owns a nice residence and considerable other town property. He was married in Illinois to Miss Sarah Keith. They had two children, Daniel and Florence, the latter of whom is dead. Mr. Flick survived his first wife and in 1884 was married to Miss Sarah David and to this union there were born seven children all of whom are deceased except Jessie who is now living in Pawnee Rock. Mr. Flick has always been one of the leading citizens of Pawnee Rock and has had a great deal to do with its upbuilding and making it one

of the important towns of the county. He enjoys a wide acquaintance in all parts of the state of Kansas and is well known among the traveling fraternity. He is one of the really

old timers who saw this county when it was struggling with the hard times and has seen it grow to its present high standing in the State of Kansas.



Rock Hotel, Pawnee Rock

### FRANCIS T. BELT

**F**RANCIS T. BELT, who now lives in Topeka, Kansas, is one of the really old timers of Barton County, he having come here in 1878 from the State of Illinois. He took up the occupation of farming immediately upon his arrival and his home place is located in section 21, township 20, range 15, where he resided for a number of years and cultivated the land. He remained here until 1901 when he retired and took up his residence in Topeka where he now lives. He was married June 14, 1880, in Brussels, Illinois, to Miss Mary Jane Flanagan and they are the parents of four children: George F., 32 years of age, is in the real estate business in Kansas City; Charles T., 27 years of age, is engaged in the farming business in Barton County; Nellie A., 26 years of age, resides in Topeka and Caroline, who died when she was one year of age. Mr. Belt is a prominent member of the G. A. R. and served his country in the civil war from February 28, 1862, until April 9, 1865. He was a member of the 5th Missouri Cavalry which for a time was actively engaged in the capacity of body guard to Gen-

eral Schofield, and saw much service in skirmishes in Missouri and Arkansas. Mr. Belt was born in St. Louis, Mo., July 23, 1842, and during his residence in Barton County was one of the most active in the upbuilding of the town and the development of the soil. Mr. Belt's family now owns 1,520 acres of land in this section of the state and are among the best known people who had a part in making Barton County one of the best in the State of Kansas. Mr. Belt says he held one public office while living in this county, that of justice of the peace but he resigned after a short time because he could not spare the time from his private affairs and when his first case was brought to him he acted as adviser and succeeded in settling the case out of court. Mr. Belt is one of the few men who turned down a senatorial nomination in the Seventh congressional district of Kansas. He can relate many interesting incidents of the early days and is one of those men to whom this part of the state owes its present high state of cultivation and high standing as one of the most productive counties in the country.

### P. H. WILLIS

**I**N writing up the history of Barton county the Pawnee Rock department would be incomplete without mention of P. H. Willis who is one of the best known men in Bar-

ton County. He was born October 23, 1845, in Hartford, Conn., and came to Barton County in 1876 and went through the hard times with which the early day settlers had to contend.

He took up a homestead near Pawnee Rock and farmed for ten years. He then moved to town and for the past twenty-five years has been closely identified with the upbuilding of Pawnee Rock. He was married in 1866 to Miss Christina Wristle of Glastonbury, Conn., and they are the parents of four children. Albert, 41 years of age, lives in Pawnee Rock, Nellie 38 years of age is now Mrs. Cal Reid of California, Earnest, 30 years of age, is in Pawnee Rock and Rosie, 28 years of age, is now Mrs. B. Rose of Anthony, Kansas. Mr. Willis is a veteran of the civil war and was a member of the 6th Connecticut, having been enlisted in Company B. He was in the service

sixteen months and saw much active duty most of it being in skirmishes. Since his residence in Pawnee Rock he and his sons have been engaged in the painting business and by doing only first class work and using the best of material they have gained the confidence of the people and enjoy a large patronage. Mr. Willis owns a nice residence in the town of Pawnee Rock and is one of the town's most enterprising and progressive citizens and is one of those old timers who has seen this county grow from an almost barren waste to its present high standing among the best counties of the State of Kansas.

### THOMAS HENRY MORRIS

**T**HOMAS HENRY MORRIS was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, February 16, 1860.

He came to Barton County from his native state when he was twenty-three years of age, and took up the occupation of farming one and one-half miles west of Pawnee Rock.

Pawnee Rock, a beautifully surrounded home, with eight rooms in addition to bath, closets, pantries, etc. Mr. Morris' country place consists of 320 acres of good farm land which is being farmed by renters. He is also interested in the Farmers and Merchants Telephone



Residence of Thomas Henry Morris

He has always been closely identified with the development of that part of the county and is one of those men who came to this section at a time when only the stout hearted and those who had faith in the future could remain and overcome the adverse conditions with which they had to contend. He was married in Pawnee Rock, July 25, 1883 to Miss Ella M. Williams and they are the parents of three children as follows: Mabel N., 26 years of age, is now Mrs. A. S. Gross, residing in Pawnee Rock; Beatrice, 23 years of age, is now Mrs. E. B. Duncan of Liberty, Mo., and Leland, 16 years of age, is living at home. Mr. Morris owns one of the nicest residences in

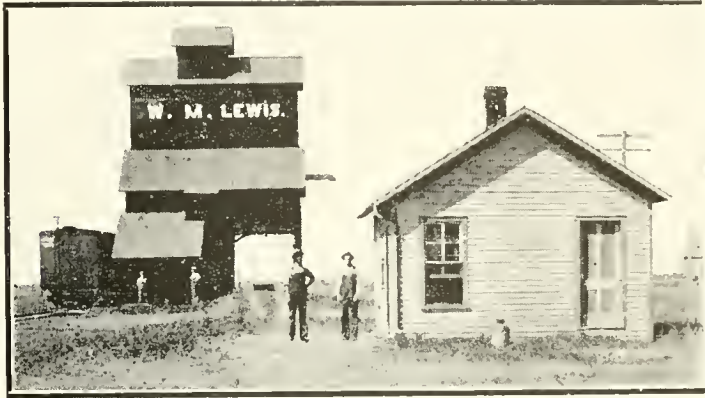
Company, the Farmers Elevator Co., the Pawnee Rock State Bank and owns a large number of town lots. Although Mr. Morris has always had a large number of private interests to look after he has found time to take an active part in the affairs of his home community. He has been a member of the city council, served as a member of the school board and is known as an enterprising and progressive citizen. His home place in Pawnee Rock is located south of the depot and is surrounded by beautiful shade trees and neat well kept lawn and it is one of the pleasing sights that greets a stranger when arriving in Pawnee Rock.



## WILLIAM M. LEWIS

**A**MONG the old timers of Pawnee Rock and Barton County, none is better known than William M. Lewis who came to this part of the state in 1874. He was born at Morrison, Illinois, April 12, 1862, and came here with his parents when he was twelve years of age. His father located a homestead two miles west of Pawnee Rock

is becoming sole owner in 1908. Mr. Lewis owns 260 acres of land in Pawnee County which is worked by his boy, a fine residence in Pawnee Rock which contains eight rooms in addition to closets, pantries, etc., a number of town lots and private interests. He has served the town as mayor, has been a member of the council, police judge and has been one of the



Lewis Elevator Pawnee Rock

and began the work of developing the soil. William attended school in this county and when he was twenty-one years of age began farming near Pawnee Rock. He farmed for six years and then accepted a position with the Santa Fe Railroad Company, and was with them for twelve years. One year of this time he was employed in Rice County and the remainder of the time was agent at Pawnee Rock. In 1900 he left the railroad company's employ and established a grain elevator at Pawnee Rock which he has operated since that time. The elevator has a capacity of 10,000 bushels and when established was owned by the firm of Logan & Lewis, Mr. Lew-

most popular citizens of the town, always standing for its best interests and advancement. He was married in this county June 6, 1884 to Miss Della Hall and they are the parents of four children: Edna, 27 years of age, is now the wife of Dr. Button of Great Bend; Harry, 25 years of age, is in the postal service; Charles, 23 years of age, is farming on his father's land near Pawnee Rock and Ruth, 20 years of age, is living at home. Mr. Lewis is one of the men who came here at a time when the county was in its infancy as far as agriculture goes and has seen it grow from an almost barren waste to its present high state of cultivation.

## WILLIAM T. WARNER

**W**ILLIAM T. WARNER was born in Ohio March 22, 1859 and came to Pawnee Rock when he was twenty-one years of age. This was in 1881 and since that time he has been one of the best known men in that part of Barton County. He first worked for the Santa Fe Railroad and for twenty-four years was foreman of the section in which Pawnee Rock is located. Mr. Warner was married in 1880 to Miss Martha Booze in Ohio and they are the parents of seven children: Bertha, 32 years of age is now Mrs. A. M. Thomas and lives in Colorado; Lena, 28 years of age is now Mrs. W. H. Franklin of Pawnee Rock; Eva, 26 years of age, is now Mrs. I. S. Brady residing two miles east of Pawnee Rock; Geo. L. is employed as traveling representative of the Merritt-Schwier Creamery Company; Everett E., 20 years of age, is in the produce business in Pawnee Rock; Wm. J., Jr., 16 years of

age and Herold, 13 years of age, are living at home with their parents. Last April Mr. Warner opened a modern meat market in Pawnee Rock and since the beginning it has enjoyed a good trade. He handles only the very best of fresh and salt meats and has his shop equipped for the proper handling and keeping of meats of all kinds. Mr. Warner owns a fine modern residence in Pawnee Rock. It consists of six rooms and is located on two acres of land. During Mr. Warner's residence in Pawnee Rock he has taken an active part in the affairs of the community and has held the office of mayor, has been a member of the city council and has also held township offices at different times. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen and enjoys a wide acquaintance in all parts of Pawnee Rock and Barton County.



## STEPHEN J. WILLIAMS

**S**TEPHEN J. WILLIAMS was born in Hawkins County, Tenn., October 17, 1850. He resided in his native state until 1866 when he moved to Iowa where he remained for ten years before coming to Kansas in 1878. His parents came here four years before his arrival and the Williams family is one of the best known in this part of the state. Mr. Williams bought railroad land three miles east of Pawnee Rock and at once began the development of the soil. For a number of years he lived on a rented farm and farmed it in addition to his own. Then he bought a half section north and east of Pawnee Rock and about five miles from his home place. He farmed for a number of years, and seven years ago moved to town and now lives in a nice residence in Pawnee Rock. He was

married in August, 1867, to Miss Myra McDavid and they are the parents of eight children as follows: Margaret M., 36 years of age, is now Mrs. S. P. Hill of Pawnee Rock; Mary L., 34 years of age is now Mrs. G. E. Conkle of Colo.; Lydia C., 31 years of age is now Mrs. James A. Lowhorne of Wichita; Andrew E., 29 years of age is farming near Pawnee Rock; William E., 26 years of age lives in Pawnee Rock; John J., 23 years of age and Thelma, 16 years of age and Esther, 13 years of age, are also living in Pawnee Rock. Mr. Williams served his district as county commissioner for four years, has held township and school board offices and is one of the best known men in the county. He is one of the men who helped to make this county one of the best in the State of Kansas.

## WILLIAM H. BOWMAN

**W**ILLIAM H. BOWMAN was born February 27, 1847, near Annapolis, Crawford County, Illinois. He was raised on a farm and came to Barton County in October, 1873. He located on the southeast quarter of section 34, township 15, range 20, which adjoins the townsite of Pawnee Rock on the east. Since that time he has added to his holdings at different times until he and his sons now own 2,200 acres of land in the vicinity of Pawnee Rock. Mr. Bowman was married April 26, 1868, in Illinois to Miss Ceceline Schammahorn, and they are the parents of six children as follows: W. Walter, 13 years of age, is farming in Pawnee County about two miles from Pawnee Rock; Richard H., 36 years of age, is farming near town; John E., 32 years of age, lives in Pawnee Rock and is now mayor of the town; Earl J., 30 years of age, lives in town as does Ross G., 28 years of age, and Ivy Grace, 21 years of age. Mr. Bowman has deeded a great deal of his land to his children who have the active management of their father's holdings. In 1878 he,

together with his brother, Eli Bowman, and Aaron Garverick, built a flouring mill in Pawnee Rock and was in the milling and grain business, with the exception of one year, until 1887; he was elected as a member of the first city council of the city of Pawnee Rock and has served as a member of the school board. He now lives permanently in town and owns a modern six room residence, on north Main street and also owns other town property and is a stock holder and director in the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank, and owns stock in the local Farmers' Elevator, the Farmers' & Merchants' Telephone Co., and the Electric Light, Ice & Power Co. He has always taken an active interest in the progress of Pawnee Rock and vicinity and has had a great deal to do with the upbuilding of the town and the development of that section of the county. In addition to his Pawnee Rock holdings and farming interests in this county Mr. Bowman also has property in other states, but he always counts Kansas as his home and Pawnee Rock as his place of residence.

## HENRY SMITH EVERITT

**A**MONG the first settlers of Barton County the name of Henry Smith Everitt, of "Evergreen Farm," eight miles west of Great Bend, should be enrolled, because he selected this for a residence place in September, 1874. He was born near Magnolia, LaSalle County, Illinois, on January 3, 1845, and until his eighteenth year assisted his father on the farm and attended the public schools of the neighborhood. In 1864 he enlisted for a term of three years as a private in Company H, 104th Illinois Infantry, and after a trying service of one year and six months was discharged at the termination of the civil war. During that time he passed through the Atlanta cam-

paign and followed Sherman on his March to the Sea, and has preserved an interesting diary of the movements, marches, skirmishes and happenings of his command during several weeks of that period, and cherishes it as a sacred relic of the times. After his discharge he returned to his former home and resumed farming until coming to Barton County in 1874; when he bought three hundred and twenty acres from the Santa Fe Railway Company, and paid five dollars per acre, on eleven years' time. In 1909 he purchased an additional adjoining forty acres at \$50 per acre and at this time owns and farms three hundred and sixty acres. The whole is improved and in a high

state of cultivation, and the residence, barn, and other buildings are ample for a farm of its size. Tree culture seems to have been an important feature when this place was first set-

taken in infancy, and a daughter, Elizabeth Rebecca, wife of David Ewing, on June 29, 1911. William Everitt, who married Miss Myrtle Lloyd, resides on the northeast quarter of



Home and Family of Henry S. Everitt

tled, and Mr. Everitt is now enjoying the fruits of his labor in a magnificent park which surrounds the home.

In February, 1869, Henry S. Everitt and Miss Elizabeth Ann Lewis, both of La Salle County, Illinois, were united in marriage at the bride's home in that county. Six children were born, but only two survive. Three were

the same section, and George Nathan Everitt, who married Miss Anna Christianson, resides in Comanche County, Kansas.

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Everitt, the mother and wife, departed this life on February 24, 1906, and is buried in the Everitt cemetery, near the residence.

### ANDREW GEIL

**T**HE country home of Andrew and Eva Florence Wallace Geil, "Westlawn Farm," takes its name from the beautiful park and lawn which surrounds the residence, a two story frame standing in the center, and is approached by pedestrians by a walkway bordered by sweet scented flowers, while rose bushes and ornamental plants and shrubs adorn the grass covered lawn. Two circuitous driveways enter from either side and wind their way to the rear, and there become roads extending into the farm. In the rear are the barns, granary, tool sheds and other buildings, and windmills fanning the air. Then the farm is seen with its golden wheat and oats; its green corn, and meadows of alfalfa and native grasses, where horses and cattle graze, calves and colts, gamble, and fat swine mosey about. The gray coat of the house and the carmine of the outbuildings contrasts so well with the foliage of the trees and growing crops that they lend animation and enliven the picture. But when one enters and finds all the comforts of a city home he is impressed with the culture and refinement of the inmates,

and the success of their venture on a Kansas homestead.

The home place of Andrew Geil contains two hundred and forty acres and is in a high state of cultivation. The soil is good and it produces good crops. The buildings, implements and stock on the farm are all in good condition and prove that the controlling spirit has his soul in his work. He both farms and breeds stock, and has designed his farm with this end in view. He also owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Rozel, Pawnee County, which is occupied by a tenant.

Andrew Geil was born in Keokuk County, Iowa, on February 2nd, 1860, and came to Barton County, Kansas, in 1878, accompanied by his parents, Jacob and Louise Geil, who made their home on Walnut creek in Clarence township. He at first assisted his parents in their farm work, then was a renter and later purchased land. He was married on September 28, 1888, to Miss Eva Florence Wallace, formerly of near Bedford, Iowa, and they are the parents of ten interesting children. They are all at home with their parents.



Home of Andrew Geil

## WILLIAM OTTE

THE home of William Otte is located one and one-fourth miles south of Heizer and the farm covers two hundred and sixty acres of choice farming lands. It was

proved the soil to be fertile and in a high state of cultivation, and that the ruling spirit is a past master of agriculture.

William Otte was born in Hanover, Ger-



Residence of William Otte and Family

originally high, rolling prairie, but has been transformed into one of the most habitable places in Barton County. The house, barn and other improvements are all modern and attractive, and there is sufficient timber to light the landscape with green. The growing crops

many, September 3rd, 1848, and came to America in 1868, when he was twenty years of age, and settled first in Rock County, Wisconsin. He remained there four years and then went to Cedar County, Iowa, where he remained until he came to Barton County in 1878. He



bought school land in this county and also took a homestead, a part of which is now included in the home place, which comprises 260 acres

they are the parents of seven children: William, George, Henry, Warner, Anna Frederick, Bertha, all of whom are residents of the coun-



Early Home of William Otte

of land. He also owns 100 acres four miles northeast of Heizer, 400 acres in Ness County and some town lots in Heizer. Mr. Otte married Mrs. Alvina Jaekal November 7, 1880, and

ty. Mrs. Otte was born December 16th, 1860, in Germany and is a kind mother and faithful housewife.

### BOYD EVERS



Home of Boyd Evers

**T**HE Evers home, four miles northwest of the court house in Great Bend is one of the most inviting in the county. The grass plot in front of the house, the trees and

plants growing in the yard and the paint on the house and other buildings harmonize so well that it is a relief to the eye as one approaches this model home. Much taste is dis-



played within the Evers home. Mr. Evers is a successful farmer and his wife is a model housekeeper. The order and harmony extend to all parts of the farm. The fence rows are guiltless of weeds and the ground is free from litter and idle farm machinery. This seems to be a place with room for everything and everything in its place. The soil which is naturally quite rich has been properly fertilized and cultivated and is in splendid condition after twenty-seven years of continuous cultivation. It was in March, 1881, that Mr. Evers homesteaded the eighty acres where his home place is located. It has been seven years since he purchased 160 additional acres at a price of \$3,500. He bought this land on credit and paid for it with the crops he raised in the following three years. The price of land has ad-

vanced so rapidly during this time that this quarter could be sold at any time for \$16,000. This price has been refused by Mr. Evers because he could not get another quarter equally as good for that money. This is the story that is true of many quarters in that neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Evers are both natives of Indiana, having been born, reared, educated and married in or near Rockville in that state. This probably accounts for their success in Kansas, because a Hoosier is not to be outdone no matter where he may be transplanted. They are the parents of five children. Otis married Miss Maud Barker; Kirby Evers who married Miss Lillie Essmiller; Alice is now the wife of Frank Westman and Mabel who resides at home. It will be seen from this that all the children are residing in this county.

### J. P. DIRKS

**F**IFTEEN and a half miles southwest of Great Bend and six and a half miles northwest of Pawnee Rock, in Pawnee Rock township, one of the finest wheat pro-

rooms and basement. A good barn, granaries, chicken houses, etc., are found on the place and it is one of the well improved farms of the neighborhood. The family is a popular one



Farm and Home of J. P. Dirks

ducing sections in the world, is one of the pretty farms in a pretty country. It is the property of Jacob P. Dirks, the eldest son of Susan and Peter H. Dirks. Born February 12, 1875, and educated in the public schools, he early took to farming for himself. He was married on February 23, 1898 to Miss Lizzie C. Schultz of Clarence township. They are the parents of three children: Maggie, twelve years of age, Elmer Jacob, ten years and Pearl Lena, five years of age. They bought the land they live on, 160 acres, and on it have a one and a half story frame residence with eight

and merits its standing in the community. He rents and farms two hundred acres of land. Mr. Dirk's birth will long be remembered by those who came to this country with his parents because it is said they occupied a box car on a siding in Pawnee Rock at the time of his birth, and that he first saw the light in such surroundings. From that fact it was then argued that he would be a great traveler and never settle down to a peaceful life, but he has and is one of the most contented in his community and rarely rides in anything faster than an automobile.

## GEORGE BAUER

**G**EORGE BAUER who lives four miles northeast of Pawnee Rock was born February 14, 1841, in the Province of Bavaria, Germany, and came to the United States with his parents in 1852. They at first made their home near Cincinnati, Ohio, where they settled permanently. He was educated in the public schools and found employment there until August, 1861, and then enlisted as a private in Company B, 25th Ohio Volunteers, and served four years, being discharged at Atlanta, Georgia, while on the March to the Sea under General Sherman. He was wounded in the left hip in the battle of Chickamauga and was in the battle at Mill Springs, where General Zolacoff was killed, also at Perryville, Kentucky, and numerous other smaller engagements and skirmishes. He was in the division and corps commanded by Gen. Thomas and the brigade commanded by General Cook, and as they were fighters of note it is evident that this soldiering experience was no child's play although Mr. Bauer is inclined

least boastful than many. George Bauer came to Barton County, Kansas, in the spring of 1876 and being an ex-soldier, entered a homestead of 160 acres. This he proved up and at a later period bought an additional eighty on the same section which makes a farm of 240 acres. It is in a high state of cultivation and improved with a one story frame cottage, containing nine rooms. A good barn, granary and other outbuildings are also found on the place. Tree culture seems to be a thankless task in this neighborhood and attempts in this line have heretofore been of no avail, but Mr. Bauer still hopes that his efforts will be crowned with success and that he may in time enclose his premises with a park. George Bauer was married to Miss Maggie Stump of Cowley county, Kansas, April 12, 1874. She died on August 26, 1905. Mr. Bauer has three living children as follows: Mrs. Ada Shorpy who lives with her father and cares for his home, Mrs. Emma Lamb of Pawnee county and Miss Laura Bauer residing in Larned, Kansas.

## PAUL FRANCIS AND MELISSA ANN SCHNECK

**T**HE subjects of this sketch, Paul Francis and Melissa Ann Schneck, were members of the first party of emigrants to arrive on the townsite of Great Bend, and they possibly erected the first house. This little frame structure is shown as the "L" in the picture of their residence taken in 1871, and it first stood on a lot in the town. It has, however, quite a history, as it has made sev-

a short distance from the town experienced great fear. For this reason, Mr. Schneck for a long time kept a truck that conformed to the size of his little shack, and the rumor of a massacre in another part of Western Kansas often drove the family and their house on wheels back to the settlement. The mules which brought this party from Illinois were the main dependence of the family, and when



Early Home of Paul Francis and Melissa Ann Schneck

eral journeys between the village and their homestead before becoming a part of its permanent structure. These first settlers suffered many hardships and were persecuted continuously by bands of roving Indians, and those who attempted to work the land on claims only

not engaged breaking and cultivating the land helped to haul the material to build the present court house, the old Southern Hotel and the first Santa Fe depot. Mr. Schneck was lured by the game so plentiful at that period and made his pleasure a source of profit by

hunting buffalo, deer, antelope, prairie chickens, etc., and selling the meat and pelts. He often made trips extending over weeks, leaving his wife as the protector of the home and lit-

ruary 26th, 1911, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Great Bend by sorrowing but loving friends. He was a noble comrade, faithful soldier and pathfinder and his good deeds re-



Present Home of Melissa Ann Schneck

tle ones, and this she remembers as one of her greatest trials; for it was during an absence of this kind that the death of little William Francis occurred on January 4th, 1872. He

deem his few faults.

Melissa Ann Fowler Schneck was born October 27, 1842, on a canal boat on the Millionville river, Ohio, and is the daughter of



Harvesting Scene On the Schneck Farm

was encased in a coffin made by a willing carpenter and laid to rest by loving neighbors.

Paul Francis Schneck served during the civil war as a private in Co. H, 2nd Illinois artillery. He died in Great Bend, Kansas, Feb-

William and Mary Fowler of Perryburg, Ohio. The father was a miller and owner of a canal boat, but both parents died before Melissa was six years of age and she grew to womanhood in the home of an aunt at Florence, Michigan.

On December 26, 1866, at the age of twenty-two she married Paul Francis Schneck, at Florence, Michigan. She is the mother of nine children, six of whom are living: Mrs. James McDonald, six miles south of Stafford; Mrs. Lizzie Ruble, Great Bend; Mrs. Rosa Belle Land, Great Bend; Frank Schneck, farmer of near Larned; Bertie Lougee Schneck, farmer on home place and Miss Emma J. Schneck.

Early in 1867 Mr. and Mrs. Schneck left

Michigan for Quincy, Illinois, where they made their home for five years, or until August, 1871 when they came to the newly located town of Great Bend. They came overland in a wagon drawn by mules, and were accompanied by their three children, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis P. Frey and Thompson Frey. The homestead located by them is four miles northwest of the court house, is a part of their present well tilled farm, and is very fertile.

### PETER J. DECKERT



The Home of Peter J. Deckert

**T**HE life story of Peter J. Deckert of "Silver Medal Farm," three miles north of Pawnee Rock if told in any other state or county would read like fiction. He was born April 8, 1872, in Russian Poland, and his father died shortly afterwards. In the spring of 1874 his mother was married to Peter H. Dirks now living in Liberty township and with them he came to the United States and Barton County, Kansas, in the spring of 1875. They at first were members of the Mennonite Colony which settled near Dundee, but in 1877 the step-father purchased a home near the western border of the county and it was there that young Peter grew to manhood on the farm, and received his education in the schools of that district. At an early age he learned the value of money and how to save it by passing through the hard times that followed, or really only began in 1893 when he had reached the age of twenty-one. There had been hard periods previous to that time but for four years there were almost complete crop failures and when in 1897 the good crops came Mr. Deckert had learned the lesson that was necessary to make him the practical farmer and prudent business man that he is today. Two good

crops enabled him to marry and purchase a quarter section of land and from that date he began to accumulate and lay the foundation for his present prosperity. Today he owns four hundred acres of the finest agricultural land in Pawnee Rock township and he has it in the best possible state of cultivation. His home is a three story frame with thirteen large airy rooms. It is well and modernly furnished, beautifully painted and surrounded by a grass plot in which there are set numerous trees, shrubs and plants. The barn is 30 by 46 and has a large hay loft and stall for all stock in use on the farm. There is a good granary, machinery shed and the other necessary out-buildings, and three good windmills. There is also another two story, eight room tenant house with a good barn 40 by 60 with machine sheds and other buildings and this is occupied by his farm help. In the front is a blue grass plot and a number of evergreens. Peter J. Deckert and Miss Susan Ratzlaff of Pawnee Rock township were married November 9, 1898, and they have been blessed with the following children: Lyndon, 12; Erben, 9; Otto, 7; Arbin, 4; Louise, 2, and Ivan, an infant of two months, at this writing.



## WILLIAM VARNUM ADAMS

**W**ILLIAM VARNUM ADAMS was born in Armstrong County, Pa., July 22, 1864.

He resided in his native state until 1904, at which time he came to Barton County, Kansas. He located on land south of the river which was purchased by his father, Captain James Adams, from D. N. Heizer, in 1884, in South Bend township, four miles south of the city of Great Bend and began the building of a home. How well he has succeeded is evidenced by the fine improvements to be found there. This land which consists of 200 acres, is located in section 21, township 20, range 13. His residence which has recently been finished consists of two stories with eleven

billiard room all of them being finished in keeping with the lower floor. The lower rooms are furnished with leather upholstered furniture of modern design and altogether Mr. Adams has a home of which he should be proud. The barn which is 32 by 40 with a loft capable of containing a great amount of hay is equipped with automatic lifts, has a cement floor and stall room for all the animals that Mr. Adams needs in his business. There are two large granaries and all the other out-buildings needed to make a thoroughly equipped farm. The place is equipped with an individual electric lighting plant, pressure water system and the live stock maintained by



Palatial Home of William Varnum Adams

rooms, exclusive of the garret and basement. It is built according to plans made by Mr. Adams and is one of the best arranged homes to be found in Barton County. The front and half of the south and north sides of the building are enclosed by a cement floored porch with a roof like the roof on the building proper and known as a sweep design. The interior of the building is finished in stucco ceilings and walls with the wood work stained a light oak shade. The parlor and dining room open one into the other with a wide passage way on either side of which are heavy pillars. The kitchen and other rooms are well supplied with closets and pantries. On the upper floor are found the bed rooms, bath room and

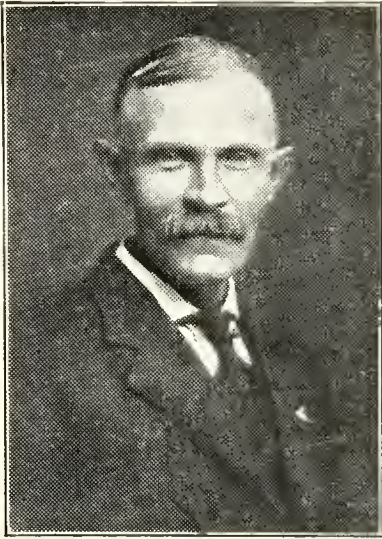
Mr. Adams while not of the thoroughbred or fancy kind is ample for all needs. Mr. Adams was married in 1891 in Kittanning, Armstrong County Pa., to Mia Allie Phillips. They are the parents of five children: Frank, 20 years of age; George, 19 years of age; Willis, 17 years of age; John, 15 years of age; Hazel, 12 years. All the children are at home and are being educated in the schools of Barton County. Mr. Adams has been a most successful farmer as he farms according to modern methods and to this fact and that he has taken the good years with the bad and made an average of them, without being discouraged he owes his success.

## J. W. SODERSTROM

**O**F the men who came to Barton County in the early days, at a time when Indians and buffaloes disputed the encroachment of the white man, on what they consid-

ered their sole territory, none is better or more favorably known than J. W. Soderstrom. He was born in Altoona, Knox County, Illinois, in 1859, and came to Kansas with his par-

ents—John Olaf, and Mrs. Louisa Soderstrom, in 1878, when he was eighteen years of age. The elder Soderstrom purchased land in Osage County, just west of the Osage Indian reservation and J. W. remained there for ten years, spending part of the time on the farm and the



J. W. Soderstrom

remainder of the time he was following his trade of carpenter in different parts of that section of the state. He came to Barton County in 1887, and bought land one and a half miles north of Hoisington. He remained on this farm for eight years and then moved to the town of Hoisington and in the fall of 1902

was elected to the office of county treasurer. He came to Great Bend in 1903 to assume the duties of this office and has remained here since that time. He served this term and gave way to Frank Millard who served two terms and he in turn retired in 1908 in favor of Mr. Soderstrom who was again elected in 1907. He was re-elected in 1910 and is now finishing his second successive term. Mr. Soderstrom has always taken an active part in public affairs and in addition to the office he now holds he has been a member of the school board at district No. 97, a member of the council in Hoisington and in 1908 was deputy assessor in Great Bend. Mr. Soderstrom is the father of three children: Frank A., twenty-six years old, assistant cashier of the Peoples State Bank of Hoisington; Elma B., who graduated from the State University in 1905 and is now teaching in the schools of Hoisington; Winnie, fifteen years of age, a pupil in the Great Bend High school. Mr. Soderstrom is a member of the Great Bend lodge of Elks, the A. O. U. W. and wears a "25" year emblem of the Odd Fellows, having been a member of this order for twenty-seven years. In all his work for the public Mr. Soderstrom has always given his best efforts from the time he was township clerk and trustee, to his present position as one of the most important officers of the county. His recollections of the early days would make a volume inasmuch as he was here at a time when the development of the county was just beginning and he has seen it grow from almost a barren waste to its present high state of cultivation and standing among the counties of the state. During all this time he has always been found with the progressive and public spirited element and has been a sound, substantial citizen.

## GEORGE LEWIS BESSLER

**G**EORGE LEWIS BESSLER was born in Germany in 1876 and with his parents came to America in 1882. His parents located at Toledo, Ohio, where George went to school. In 1898 when the war with Spain was declared he enlisted in the 6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and he was with his company in Cuba. He served thirteen months in the army and upon his discharge returned to Toledo where he remained a short time before going to New York where he accepted a position as steward on one of the big ocean liners. He followed this business for three years after which he again returned to his home town, Toledo, and from there came to Barton County in 1904 during the harvest season. He accepted a po-

sition with the E. R. Moses Mercantile Co. and was connected with this firm until 1908. He then took up the occupation of farming which he followed for two years at the end of which time he again entered the mercantile business and at the time of this writing is preparing to open a modern second hand store where he will also carry a good stock of new furniture. His business is located in the Cook Building on the east side of the public square. Mr. Bessler is an enterprising and progressive citizen and finds time to take a deep interest in the public affairs of the community in which he lives and in all public matters is found with the progressive element.

## WILSON M. ZIEBER

**W**ILSON M. ZIEBER was born November 14, 1859 at Philadelphia, Pa. He remained in the Quaker State until he was twenty years of age, and received his early educa-

tion there. He entered what is now known as the North Indiana University where he was a student for two years. He came to Harvey County, Kansas, in 1882, and taught in the

schools of that county for two years. From there he moved to Barton County in 1884 and engaged in the nursery business, traveling all over this section of the country supplying the farmers with nursery products. Realizing the necessity for a first class nursery in the county, he purchased the business of William Bester located a short distance east of Pawnee

Maple and Elm trees. In addition to the land mentioned above Mr. Zieber owns three quarter sections of land in Barton County and 160 acres in Ness County. He was married in November, 1890, to Miss Armeta Miller and they are the parents of eight children: Lester, 20 years; Gertrude E., 18 years; George A., 17 years; Warren M., 16 years; Eva A., 14;



Home and Farm of Wilson M. Zieber

Rock. He immediately made a number of improvements and as his business grew in volume it became necessary for him to have more land. In 1891 he bought eighty acres one mile and a half northeast of Pawnee Rock, and in 1893 added another eighty acres adjoining. This nursery is now recognized as the leader in this line of business in this section of the country and its products are shipped to all parts of the Great Southwest. Mr. Zieber carries a fine line of trees and shrubs as well as flowers and plants and makes a specialty of

Mary L., 12 years; Kathryn J., 6 years; Florence V., 4 years. All of these are living at home; Lester being at home when he is not attending the Agricultural College at Manhattan where he is now a student. Mr. Zieber has had a great deal of experience in the nursery business and the products from his establishment are known in all parts of this and surrounding states where the best in trees, flowers and shrubbery are appreciated. His home place is located a short distance east of Pawnee Rock.

### JAMES R. EWING

THE "J. R. Ewing Thoroughbred Stock and Alfalfa Farm," which is located eleven miles west of Great Bend, covers four hundred acres of the choicest of Barton County's tillable land and is all that its name implies. Its owner, James R. Ewing, is a fancier of thoroughbreds, and his specialties are Black and Gray Percheron horses, Short-Lorn Cattle, Big Boned English Berkshire hogs and Rhode Island Red chickens. The house is a two story frame with eleven rooms; the barn 40x64; the poultry house large and modern, and there is an aut mobile garage, wind-mills and numerous outbuildings. The farm is set in corn, wheat and forage crops, and a

godly portion in alfalfa and native grasses. In fact it has been planned for a breeding farm and has the necessary appurtenances. On it at this time is "Kansas King," a thoroughbred registered Black Percheron stallion and eleven registered brood mares of the same breed. Two of these mares are said to be worth above \$1,000 each, and the value of "Kansas King" has not been fixed as he is not yet two years old and is said to be one of the largest colts ever bred in the county. "Deering Archer," a thoroughbred Shorthorn bull, and six Shorthorn cows—all from imported stock. A herd of Big Boned English Berkshire hogs and a flock of Rhode Island Red



chickens. These animals have been bred for sale from sires imported at great cost, with a view to bettering the stock of the county, and are the result of many years of effort, and Mr.

der fire; but escaped with a scratch across the forehead, a grazed arm, and a hat shot from his head. He faced Price, Marmaduke, Bee and Dwight at the battles of Ft. DeRusa, Pleas-



Home of James R. Ewing

Ewing deserves much credit for being the pioneer in his line.

James R. Ewing was born February 10th, 1840, in Crawford County, Pa., but in 1857 moved to Webster County, Iowa, where he engaged in farming. On July 14th, 1861, he was married to Miss Hannah Elizabeth Cline, of that county, and they have four children: David A., Fred H. and Harve Ewing, all farming in Barton County, and Mrs. Blanche Nairn of Pawnee County. On August 22rd, 1862, he entered the United States army as a private in Co. 1, 32nd Iowa Volunteers and served during the remainder of the civil war. He was in eight general engagements, many skirmishes, and was at one time for thirty-one days un-

ant Hill, Mansfield, Old Oaks, Lake Checot, Mineral Point, Big Blue and Nashville, and was at the taking of Ft. Blakeny, Ala., on the 14th day of April, 1865. After the close of the war he returned to his home in Iowa and took up farming again until coming to Barton County on November 13th, 1885, when he bought a section of land where he now resides. Although about seventy-two he is well preserved and actively engaged every working day, and drives his automobile as recklessly as the younger generation. Mrs. Ewing is also a well preserved lady, and has been a true helpmate for her energetic husband. She can yet attend to her household work and assist out of doors, and is very proud to do so.

## HENRY ESSMILLER

**T**WENTY-EIGHT years ago this spring Henry Essmiller was employed by Fritz Hagleman as a farm hand to labor on the farm which he now owns and inhabits is his home at the meager wage of \$150 per annum. Ten years later, in 1893—he purchased the farm, and today is the owner of thirteen hundred and forty acres, located as follows: The home place, seven and one-half miles west of Great Bend, contains three hundred and eighty acres; one hundred and sixty in a near-by section; an eighty acre tract, and a two hundred and forty acre tract near Heizer, and four hundred and eighty acres near Rozel in Pawnee County. These various tracts are all

well improved and in a high state of cultivation. The soil is rich and these are choice farms, selected for their productiveness from the best body of lands in the entire State of Kansas. Besides this Mr. Essmiller has other investments of considerable magnitude and some money drawing a good rate of interest.

When the family home, barns and various other buildings were erected, we imagine that Mr. Essmiller was not as well fixed financially as he is today, although everything is comfortable and of a substantial nature. What we mean is that there has been no attempt at display in fashioning his surroundings, but every care has been taken that his family, help



and live stock should have all that is necessary for their comfort at the present, in order that greater and better buildings may take their place at a future date. Every dollar invested has been made to represent one hundred cents in betterment and has played its part in earning another dollar to buy more land. During harvest time and the threshing

which include the milking of fifteen to eighteen cows, and caring for other cattle, hogs, horses and mules which are bred and worked on a farm like this.

Henry Essmiller was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, on January 30th, 1862, and emigrated to America when eighteen years of age. He made his home in LaCrosse Coun-



Farm and Home of Henry Essmiller

season these farms present a busy scene with their army of laborers garnering the golden grain, while other men work at plowing corn, mowing alfalfa breaking the fields for seeding time. Then again at morning, noon and night, when they gather around the board to partake of the bounteous fare, and go singing about the barns and lots "doing their chores,"

ty, Wisconsin, for three years, and in 1883 came to Barton County. He was married to Miss Delia Sandman of La Crosse County, Wisconsin, on February 28th, 1889, and they have two children: Zelfhia, wife of Henry Otto and William D. Essmiller, who assists his father on the farm when not in school.

## HARRY HOARD HOLMES

THE home of Harry Hoard and Violet Louise Sowards Holmes, "Riverside Stock Farm," distant three and one-half miles southwest from Great Bend, lies between the Santa Fe tracks and the Arkansas river. The residence and surroundings are very pleasing to the eye. The house, located on a mound, is approached through an avenue of towering locusts, the boughs meeting overhead. Forest trees of other kinds tower in the background protecting the grass plot which is kept green and plentifully sprinkled with flowering plants and shrubs. The house is a two story white frame, with nine large airy rooms, sits high on its foundation, the ceilings are high, and the many gables and porches add to its attractiveness. The furnishings are both modern and elegant, and it is piped for lights and water. The main barn is

24x32, with a fifteen foot shed on three sides. Then comes the garage, cattle barn, granaries, chicken and hog houses, etc., and there are two cottages for tenants on other parts of the farm. The place covers five hundred acres of the most fertile of the famous Arkansas Valley and is in a high state of cultivation; but it more properly classes with the stock farms of the county, and is stocked with thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs that have taken many prizes at the Nebraska State Fair, Hutchinson, Kansas City and St. Louis. Fifty-five or sixty Shorthorns browse the meadow lands, and the head herder is "Royal Ramsden," who has never been defeated for a prize as a calf, yearling, senior yearling, or a two year old at the Nebraska State Fair. Then there are two or three females that have never been defeated in their class, having

taken first at Hutchinson in 1910, and a high prize at the American Royal Stock Show at Kansas City. His hogs are the best bred in the state and are Duroc Jerseys; being sired by "Helen's Wonder" and by "Mayboy," grand champion at the World's fair, St. Louis.

Harry Hoard Holmes was born February 20, 1868, in Chicago, and is the son of George Lincoln Holmes and Helen C. Kellog. The father, before coming to Great Bend on June

he arrived here and was educated in the public schools of Chicago and Great Bend. He became infatuated with railroading and prepared himself for an engineer, and for one year held a position as engineer on the Michigan Central out of Chicago. He transferred to the Santa Fe system and for six years ran out of Chicago, Newton and Dodge City. His earnings were invested with his father in the purchase of the five hundred acres surrounding his



Home of Harry Hoard Holmes

6, 1884, was cashier of the Chicago postoffice and connected with the Merchants National Bank of Chicago. He made his home on the ranch for twelve years and died on August 23, 1896.

George L. DeVilliers Holmes, a son, who died August 14, 1886, was a member of the family when coming to this county, as well as Mrs. Sophia Hoard Holmes, the mother and grandmother, who died June 3, 1908. Henry Hoard Holmes was sixteen years of age when

home, and in improvements and in stocking the ranch. He is now well contented with farm life and the pleasure of breeding thoroughbred stock for the market.

Harry Hoard Holmes and Miss Viola Sowards, the only child of Marion F. and Mary Rowell Sowards, of Barton County, were united in marriage on April 13, 1890, and they have one interesting daughter, Miss Helen Hoard Holmes, as a pledge of that union.

### FARM OF RUHE BROS.

**T**HE history of the Ruhe Bros.'s farm, begins with the marriage of William Ruhe and Miss Christina Franka, both of Westphalia, Germany, which occurred on October 3, 1853, and their arrival in America in 1860. Wm. Ruhe was born in 1832, and Christina his wife, on February 21, 1836. The father learned the trade of stone mason, married and two years later they sailed away to this new world to seek their fortune. How they and their children have succeeded is the object of this sketch. They first made their home in Cincinnati, Ohio, where they lived for thirteen years, and then removed to Manchester, Dearborn County, Indiana, the hus-

band earning his living by his trade. On October 20th, 1877, they landed in Barton County, and their possessions were somewhat limited. On their arrival in this county their real struggle began: the father securing work at his trade or otherwise, while the wife and children herded cattle and did what they could to help. Finally forty acres of school land was bought, seven miles northwest of Great Bend, and a home made, and with the soil under them prosperity began. This home was finally sold and another tract of school land, three and one-half miles west of the county seat was bought, and as this contained two hundred and forty acres they have since made it their

home. The estate now includes this home farm, one hundred and sixty in Liberty township, and a half section near Dodge City. The father died on April 19th, and the mother on November 16th, 1905. The surviving children are: Carrie, wife of August Rodenberg, near Dundee; Emma, wife of Fred Windhorst, Bel-pre; and William F., Fred, John H., Chris. W., Henry H., Christina and Herman W., all living on the homestead.

The home farm is in a high state of cultivation and shows that the Ruhe Brothers are up-to-date farmers, and the improvements are both substantial and ample for the needs of the place. The home is a one story frame, and there is a good barn, granary and other out-buildings. These are surrounded by a grove of trees which break the winds and afford shelter for stock and fowls.

### THOMAS HENRY WHITE

**T**HOMAS HENRY WHITE was born in Ontonagon County, Michigan, May 28, 1861. He remained there until he was twenty-nine years of age. He learned the blacksmithing trade and came to Barton County in 1889. He is a son of Thomas White who came to this county in 1877 and located on land in Walnut township. He died in 1897

which he owns and he has one of the most attractive home places to be found in that section of the county. The residence which is nicely situated and surrounded by trees contains eight rooms in addition to closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 60 by 28 feet and will be replaced by a larger and better one in the near future. Mr. White has found time to



Home of Thomas Henry White

after having been among the foremost men in developing that part of Barton County. His death was a shock to all his friends of whom he had scores in all parts of the county. The younger White was married to Miss Eva Langford in Eureka township, November 26, 1891, and they are the parents of seven children as follows: Leah, 19 years; Agnes S. 17; Clarence T., 14 years; Lydia, 11 years; Leonard, 9 years; Lola 7 years and Odah who is four months of age at this writing. Mr. White farms 240 acres of land in Eureka township all of

take an active part in the affairs of his township and is a member of the school board. He is one of the men who has had a great deal to do with the developing of the resources of that part of the county and is one of the men to whom Barton County owes its high standing among the best of counties of the State of Kansas and one of the most productive agricultural sections of the entire country. Mr. White is an enterprising and progressive citizen and enjoys a large acquaintance in all parts of the county.

### FRED DUMKOW

**T**HE fall of 1885 saw Fred Dumkow thoroughly disgusted with life in Chicago and he determined to try his fortune in Kansas. He had come from Berlin,

Germany, five years previously to ply his trade as a bricklayer, but he found that the pay of four dollars per day was not piling up the fortune he had come to America to make



fast enough, and he must seek other fields. He desired to be identified with the soil; get down in it and dig, and see his fat and sleek herds come home at night. Uncle Sam offered free homes to naturalized Dutchmen and this was the lure that located him in Barton County. He arrived in Great Bend November 8, 1885, and located a homestead of forty acres fifteen miles northwest. Later he purchased enough at ten dollars per acre to make out a quarter section, and is now a contented farmer reaping his crops and owing no man. He has this improved with a comfortable cottage, barns and other buildings, and his fields show the most careful tilling. He also has another farm of a half section seven miles northeast of Ness City, which is also well improved and in cultivation, so he takes life easy, and says he much prefers this life to his former existence in Chicago where the week's wage was usually spent before the next pay day.

During his first five years in the county he followed his trade and at first layed brick for one dollar and fifty cents per day. That was the scale paid here then and he was glad to get the work, although he had moved away

from a city where there was plenty to do and the wages much better. He finally got work from the county and built several abutments for county bridges, and also laid the brick in the Walnut Creek Mill flue.

Frederick Dumkow, born in the vicinity of Berlin, Germany, May 14th, 1851, and Matilda Baruth, born January 17th, 1852, in the same county, were married September 29th, 1874. They have two married daughters living in their neighborhood: Bertie, the wife of Daniel M. Converse; and Minnie, the wife of John Oetken.

"Cottonwood Grove," as this farm is now called, occupies a place in Barton County's history, as it was for a number of years a post-office and stage stand during the pioneer days, and there the hungry were refreshed and the mail dispersed by Postmaster Wilkinson, who will be remembered by many now living. The advent of the railroad and rural routes changed this for the better years ago, but the memories of those early days still cling to this farm and are often mentioned by those who talk over "old times."

## GUSTAV SELLE

ONE of the most successful of the enterprising and progressive farmers of South Bend township is Gustav Selle, whose home place is located in section 10 of that township where he owns a half section of

Gustav has resided here since his arrival all of the time with the exception of vacation trips to California and other parts of the country. He lived north of Ellinwood until 1897, when he moved to South Bend township.



Home of Gustav Selle

land. Mr. Selle was born in Westphalen, Germany, February 10, 1872. He came direct to Barton County from Germany in 1884 with his parents who located north of Ellinwood. His parents are now living in Pratt County, but

Mr. Selle is an enterprising and progressive farmer as is evidenced by the high class of improvements to be found on his home place. A neatly arranged and well built residence contains six rooms in addition to pantries,



closets, etc. The barn is roomy and well built and including the automobile garage is 36 by 40 feet in dimensions. The elevator is 24 by 34 feet and has a capacity for holding 7,500 bushels of grain. Mr. Selle was married in 1902 to Miss Emma Souders and they are the parents of two children: Lorena, six years of age and Clyde, three years of age, the former having begun her education in the schools

of the county while Clyde will probably begin his studies the coming school term. The surroundings on Mr. Selle's home place are pleasing, there being plenty of shade trees, and shrubbery. The buildings are neatly and conveniently arranged and altogether Mr. Selle has one of the most desirable locations in South Bend township.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON HART

**G**EORGE WASHINGTON HART was born February 22, 1843, in Erie County, Pa. He resided in his native state until he was thirty-three years of age. He came direct to Barton County from Pennsylvania in 1878 at a time when there were very few houses in Great Bend, and the county was not developed to any extent. He bought land south of the

three children: Jessie May who is 32 years of age and is now Mrs. E. E. Smith; Roy E. is 26 years old and is engaged in the farming business near Macksville, Kansas; Forrest, 20 years of age, is a student in the Great Bend High School. In addition to the residence the barn and other outbuildings are constructed in a substantial manner and a small orchard



Home of George W. Hart

river in South Bend township. This land is now his home place and consists of 280 acres all of which is farmed under the personal supervision of Mr. Hart. The home place which is but a mile and a half from Great Bend has on it one of the most modern and substantial residences to be found in that part of the county. The building consists of 8 rooms in addition to the bath, closets, pantries, basement, etc. The house is lighted with an acetylene gas plant, heated by furnace and is modern throughout. The house is 30 by 80 feet in dimensions and has beautiful surroundings. Mr. Hart was married at Erie, Pa., in 1877, to Miss Hattie Elliott. They are the parents of

consisting of about one acre and a half and containing a large variety of trees is also found near the home building. The farm is stocked with a good grade of cattle and horses and Mr. Hart has taken no small part in the work of development of that part of the county lying south of the river and making of it one of the most desirable sections in this part of the state. Mr. Hart is familiar with the early history of the county as he is one of the really old timers and took an active part in reclaiming the land in this county and making it what it is today, one of the best counties in the State of Kansas.

## F. H. EWING

THE "F. H. Ewing Pedigreed Stock Farm," located eleven and one-half miles west of Great Bend, is owned and managed by F. H. Ewing & Co., a firm composed of the

the acres, but corn, oats, Kaffir corn, alfalfa Wyandotte chickens. This farm covers three hundred and twenty acres, and Mr. Ewing owns another farm of four hundred and eighty



Residence of F. H. Ewing

father and sons. They breed and sell thoroughbred Black Percheron horses, Shetland ponies of the Scotch type, pure blooded Short-

and native grass all are grown, and the meadows are dotted with thoroughbred stock, whose ancestry came from across the ocean. This



F. H. Ewing Stock Farm

horn cattle, Poland China hogs and White acres in Pawnee County. Both are well improved, well cultivated, and are valuable bodies of land. "King wheat" seeds most of

branch of the farm's business has been of slow growth, but Mr. Ewing has gradually collected his herds and will eventually make it his leading business, although his stock has been

shipped to many counties in the state since he has been a breeder. He has been an exhibitor and has many prizes to show that prove his animals to be the very best of their type in the state. The improvements on this farm are a two story white frame house of eleven rooms; a barn 48x80; an elevator, garage, poultry house and numerous other small buildings. The premises are well fenced and well cared for and many trees and plants add beauty.

Fred H. Ewing was born April 7th, 1873.

near Lehigh, Webster County, Iowa, and is the second son of John R. and Hannah Elizabeth Ewing. He came to Barton County in 1885 with his parents and grew to manhood here. He was educated in the public schools of his district and at the Central Normal College of Great Bend, and was trained as a farmer and breeder by his father. On June 8th, 1898, he married Miss Lucy Gilmore, of Great Bend, and they have been blessed with four children: Lionel Frederick, 12; James Lowell, 6; Clevalolene, 3; and Olita Margaret, 1.

### JAMES THOMAS McDONALD

**J**AMES THOMAS McDONALD was born February 15, 1871 in Hampshire County, West Virginia. In the same year he came to Missouri with his parents. He remained there for eleven years and then came to Franklin County, Kansas. After living in that

Donald was married to Miss Leana Ollie Schneck. The home place has a residence of eight rooms, a large barn 32 by 40 feet with a big loft. Mr. McDonald has made one of the best farms in that section of the country, of his home place and of course has seen good



Home of James Thomas McDonald

county for five years he came to Stafford County and from there came to Barton County in 1901, and immediately began the business of farming. He owns a well improved quarter section six miles south of Great Bend which he farms himself. In addition to his home place he also farms a quarter section of land west and from this it can be seen that he is a mighty busy man. In 1895 he was married to Miss Daisy D. Piper and to this union there were born three children: Earl Thomas, seventeen years of age; Edna D., twelve years of age, and Elma Viola who died in 1910 when she was seven years of age. In 1904 Mr. Mc-

and bad years during his eleven years residence in Barton County. On an average however he has done well and his place is maintained according to the best farming methods. The best of live stock, both cattle and horses are maintained by Mr. McDonald and that he is a good farmer and understands modern methods is evidenced on every side. He is one of the many farmers who came here early in the present century and it is due to their efforts as much as those who came in the wild and woolly days that Barton County occupies such a prominent position in the list of the best agricultural counties of the state.



## PAUL JAMES PASCOE

**P**AUL JAMES PASCOE was born in Rockland, Ontonogan County, Michigan, July 29, 1861. He is a son of J. W. Pascoe, and was one of the first English speaking boys in Barton County. His father whose biography is found in another part of this book came to Kansas in the spring of 1871 and first located in Russell County where he remained a short time and then returned to Michigan. He stayed there for a year and returned to Kansas and since that time has

improved and most attractive country homes to be found in that township. The residence has 8 rooms in addition to the bath room, closets, pantries, etc., while the barn is 32 by 40 feet with a lean-to 16 by 40. The other out-buildings are well built and show that Mr. Pascoe is an enterprising farmer. The home place is surrounded by fine shade trees and a small orchard adds to the general appearance. Mr. Pascoe has been a member of the school board for a number of years and always



Residence of Paul James Pascoe

been one of the best known farmers of Barton County. Paul James Pascoe has been farming for himself for the past twenty-two years and owns the west half of section 30, Eureka township. He was married in June, 1885, to Miss Mary Anne White and they are the parents of six children as follows: John Thomas, 25 years of age; Richard West, 24 years; Myrel Grace, 22 years; Paul James, Jr., 17 years; May, 10 years and Lillian, 6 years. All the children are at home with the exception of Myrel Grace who is now Mrs. Phillip Dyer of this county. Mr. Pascoe has one of the best

takes a great interest in affairs that concern the welfare of the community in which he lives. The Pascoe family is one of those whose members have had so much to do with the development of the county and the subject of this sketch can recall the times when the buffaloes were disputing the territory that is now Barton County. He is familiar with the early day history which he had no small part in making. The home place was located by his father in 1873 and is located on the north side of Walnut creek.

## JOST WARNKEN

**T**HE History of Barton County cannot be written without giving due credit to the German-American who helped first in its settlement and sowed the seed of good citizenship. The customs and laws of the mother country had bred in them habits of industry and economy and they began their lives here better fitted to battle with the trials incident to a new settlement than were their

neighbors of American birth. The result has been an industrious, economical population, cultivating their fields with scrupulous care, and the erection of improvements of a permanent character. One race has learned from the other; both have been benefitted and neither is like the original stock. The German has progressed until the most enterprising citizens of the county are of that class; while the



American has become more conservative in his investments and manner of doing business. That is one reason why Barton County has been so blessed in the past, and is so firmly founded in frugal ways that it will always continue to be a prosperous county.

Jost Warnken was born on a farm near Bremen, Germany, March 4th., 1859, and emigrated to America in the fall of 1879. He first went to Pueblo, Colorado, where he was employed on a farm for one year; but not liking the country came to Barton County in the autumn of 1880. Here he hired himself out as a farm hand and worked for two seasons and then bought forty acres of school land, paying six dollars per acre. This he improved and in 1885 bought an interest in a threshing outfit, and for three years he and his partners, Hans Jurgensen and William Otte, toured the county threshing the wheat, oats and rye of their neighbors. His was one of the pioneer crews and is remembered by many. He was engaged

in this business at different times for seven years, but finally abandoned it in 1893, and has contented himself with farming since. His home farm, one mile south of Heizer, contains three hundred and twenty acres and is well improved and in a high state of cultivation. The residence is a two story frame, containing eleven airy rooms. It is painted white and sits back from the road with a nice lawn in front. There are plenty of shade trees, shrubs and plants in the yard, a nice orchard and a growing garden. The barn is 32x64 and will house the stock and store the grain of the farm. Besides this he has twelve acres adjoining Heizer, and two dwellings in the town which he rents.

Jost Warnken and Miss Anna Reinecke, of Walnut Creek, were married Jan. 16, 1886, and they are the parents of seven children: Herman, who married Miss Clara Hemming; Malinda, who married Charles Lang; William, 19; Sylvia, 16; Delia, 13; Lillie, 8, and Virgil, 1.

## AUGUST MEYER

ONE of the most successful farmers in Barton County, residing south of the river, is the subject of this sketch, August Meyer. He was born in Germany, January 8, 1847 and came to America when he was twenty years of age. He with his brother, Henry

of the country. He is the oldest settler now residing south of the river and has one of the nicest home places to be found in the county. The home place contains 160 acres in section 12, South Bend township, and he also owns a quarter in section 13, eighty in section 19 and



Home of August Meyer

Meyer, first located in Chicago where he remained for about a year. He then came to Salina, Kansas, where he spent about six months, then going to Ellsworth, where he remained about the same length of time. He came to Barton County in 1869. He took up a homestead in Buffalo township at a time before the Indians and buffaloes had left this part

owns a half section in Gray County and the same amount of land in Meade County. He farms a half section and rents the remainder of his land in this county. He has a fine, modern home which contains nine rooms, a bath, closets and pantries. It is thoroughly modern in every way. Mr. Meyer has been married three times and is the father of six

children: Frank, 30 years of age; August, 23; Emma, 21; Charlie, 19, and Edward, 17, and William 15 years of age. The home place has a fine barn 30 by 36 feet well built and modern and a fine elevator with a capacity of 7,000 bushels of grain. Mr. Meyer is one of the most successful of the farmers of Barton County

and has earned all that he has by intelligent farming methods applied with knowledge gained by experience. He is one of the really old timers of this county and can tell many interesting incidents of the early days in which he took a large part.

### JOHN PHILLIP GALLON

OF the old timers here who came when they were children and saw this county grow from a barren waste to its present high state of cultivation none is better known than the subject of this sketch, John Phillip Gallon, who now lives in a modern residence at the corner of Tenth and Heizer in Great Bend. Mr. Gallon was born March 20, 1866, in New York City and came to Barton County with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Gallon, in 1872. The family located in Walnut township where the elder Gallon took up a

the parents of seven children, six of whom are living: Linsurd E., 14 years; Elmer P., 13 years; John W., 12 years; (Chas. L., deceased, was a twin with John W. and died when he was four months of age); Ruth C., 9 years; and Margaret L., 1 year old. Mr. Gallon still owns his old home place which was formerly the Cyrus Frey farm near Albert, in fact it adjoins the townsite on the south. This farm is now being worked by Mr. Worden, a brother-in-law of Mr. Gallon. He also owns nine



Home of John Phillip Gallon

homestead two and a half miles east of Albert. Then began the work of building a home and they, like many others had to contend with the hardships which beset the pioneers on every hand. Mr. Gallon remained on the farm until he was sixteen years of age. During this time he attended school and was taught by Charles Dodge, another of the old timers of this county. This school was located on the Roudebush farm. Mr. Gallon farmed continuously until 1910 when he retired and moved to Great Bend. He was married Thanksgiving Day, 1896, to Miss Ella Worden and they are

acres of land in the town of Albert and in addition to his residence owns three houses and seven lots near his home in Great Bend. Mr. Gallon has been road overseer and assessor for his district and was deputy sheriff at Albert during the administration of Lute Aber. He also has held township offices and has been a member of the school board. He was appointed justice of the peace by Governor Hoch and at all times has been an enterprising and progressive citizen and one who has had a great deal to do with the upbuilding of the county.

## ALBERT FRED BATCHMAN

**A**LBERT FRED BATCHMAN was born in Erie County, Ohio, March 27, 1859, and came to Barton County in 1878. He first located at Ellinwood where he remained for ten years, with the exception of about eight months, while he was in Colorado and New Mexico. He then began the farming business in Stafford County and was there eight years before he returned to this county and bought 280 acres of land in section 6 of Comanche

most highly improved to be found in his township. The residence consists of seven rooms in addition to the closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 30 by 38 feet in dimensions with a large loft and is well built and conveniently arranged. The orchard which is found near the home is well kept and contains a wide variety of fruits common to this section of the country. The home is situated in neat, pleasing surroundings, there being ample



Home of Albert F. Batchman

township. Mr. Batchman farms all of this land and owns 160 acres in Stafford county which he rents, and 160 in South Bend township which he also rents by the year. Mr. Batchman was married in 1890 to Miss Carrie Nestling of Ellinwood, Kansas. They are the parents of three children: Pearl, 19 years of years; Mildred, 12 years of age; and Albert, 9 years old. All of them are students in the schools of the county. Mr. Batchman's home place is one of the most desirably located and

shade trees as well as trees and shrubbery for ornamental purposes. Mr. Batchman has had a great deal to do with the development of the land lying south of the river and is an enterprising and progressive citizen. He uses modern farming methods and his success is due to this fact and the fact that he has gained the knowledge necessary to successful farming by going through the bad and good years that have elapsed since he took up his home here.

## FRANK GILLMORE McKINNEY

**T**HE old Glenn homestead, one and one-half miles northwest of Great Bend, is one of the best quarter sections in the county. It is now owned and farmed by Frank G. McKinney, who has gone into the growing of alfalfa hay almost exclusively, and appears well satisfied with his venture. Of course he still raises sufficient corn and wheat for his own consumption, but his meadows, horses and cattle appear to be his chief concern. He owns some thirty head of horses and one hun-

dred cattle, and has the foundation laid for a breeding farm.

Frank is the son of Andrew McKinney and Marie Gillmore, the sister, of Myron Gillmore, for two terms sheriff of Barton County. The parents came to this county in 1871, when the subject of this sketch was seven years of age. They resided for one year on Walnut creek, and then removed to a homestead six miles east of Great Bend. As the country was thinly settled at that period, and the prairies covered



with cattle, horses, antelope, buffalo, coyotes, and other wild animals, and as the home was not far from the Cheyenne Bottoms, the elder McKinney developed a fondness for hunting and soon became a companion of G. N. Moses, M. B. Fitts, J. B. Howard, Paul Schneck and others, who followed the buffalo as far west as Dodge City. In 1873 or 1874 he killed five buffalo in one day in the Bottoms and there are other feats of a similar kind which are still talked of among the early pioneers.

It was while living at his second Kansas home that Master Frank first came face to face with death and crime. Near his father's home two Frenchmen were engaged sinking a well. One morning early the little fellow returned to the scene of the well digging, and noticing the absence of the men employed, he looked for them in their shack close by and was horrified to find one cold in death on the floor, while the other had been murdered on his

bed. A party by the name of Hefty was later arrested for the crime, prosecuted by County Attorney Nimocks, and was acquitted and left the county after several years.

Frank G. McKinney was born in Livingston County, Illinois, October 27, 1864, and at this time is 47 years of age. He was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Margaret Maur, in October, 1894. They have been blessed with five children; the eldest being 15 and the youngest 3 years old.

Besides the home place described above Mr. McKinney owns 640 acres on Walnut creek near Ness City. There is 240 acres of this tract under cultivation, and the houses, barn and fencing are all in good condition. This we think a good showing and proves the productiveness of Barton County, and the opportunities it offers when combined with pluck and a willingness to work.

## WILLIAM W. AND LUCY HULL HARTSHORN

THE life history of William W. and Lucy Hull Hartshorn, if written in full, would make interesting reading, because both have passed through more adventure than most persons content to end their days as peaceful farmers. They cultivate the quarter section as a homestead, four miles

Great Bend on October 16, 1871, and were among the second party of immigrants to settle here. They brought with them a wagon and team, bedding, dishes and cooking utensils, a cow and a coop of chickens, and were the first to possess these luxuries in the colony. Mrs. Hartshorn also enjoys the dis-



“Sunny Side” Homestead

west of Great Bend, and reside in a two story frame nestling among the trees. They also own a tract of two hundred and eighty acres near Ford City, Kansas, and the revenue derived from these two tracts allow them to take life comfortably. William W. Hartshorn and Lucy R. Hull of Adams County, Illinois, were married August 3, 1871 and they came overland to Kansas, arriving on the townsite of

tion of having set the first table in Great Bend; the table having been constructed by her own hands. Previously meals had been eaten “any old way,” and when she owned a table, a cow and a flock of chickens, was considered rich beyond price. They soon adapted themselves to their surroundings and Mr. Hartshorn became a huntsman, and his wife became accustomed to a life on the plains, and



if the life was rugged and full of dangers it also had its pleasures as well. We have attempted a description of the early colony days in another part of this volume and will not repeat here, simply saying that this couple experienced the worst of these trials, and contributed their mite to alleviate them.

William W. Hartshorn was born July 25th, 1847, on a farm in Adams County, Illinois. He was educated and grew to manhood there, and in 1864 enlisted as a private in Company C, 50th Illinois Volunteers and served one and a half years. He accompanied Sherman on his March to the Sea, and through South and North Carolina. He was first under fire at Resacca and at the Battle of Altoona Pass,

Georgia, and is one of the heroes of that engagement, having helped to hold the Pass under a heavy and destructive fire. Out of a company of thirty-nine men there were five killed and eighteen wounded; and Mr. Hartshorn was slightly wounded in the foot. He was also at the battle of Columbia, Resacca, Bentonville and Savannah; the last being a siege of one week. At the close of the war he returned to his home in Adams County, Illinois, and resumed farming until his marriage and coming to this county. Mrs. Lucy R. Hartshorn was born on May 10th, 1849, in Hampshire County, West Virginia, and this union has been blessed with eight children.

## HENRY SCHAEFFER

THE subject of this sketch, Henry Schaeffer, is the father of the first white child born in the city of Great Bend. Mr. Schaeffer is a native of Germany, having been born in that country in 1855. He came to Barton County in 1871. He is a carpenter by trade and helped to build the Barton County court house and had charge of the work on the Southern Hotel, the first building to be erected in Great Bend. His daughter, Emma, who is now Mrs. Will Armstrong and lives with her husband in Stafford County, was born April 20, 1872 and enjoys the distinction of having been the first white child born in the city of Great Bend. Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer now resides across the Barton County line in Stafford County. They are the parents of four other children: August, 53 years of age; Charles, 37 years of age, and Mattie, 43 years of age, who is now Mrs. G. W. Tucker and resides in this county seven miles south of Great Bend; Marie, 32 years of age, is now Mrs. Lot Ewalt residing in Arkansas. Mr. Schaeffer took up a claim upon his arrival in this county and the land that comprised his claim is now taken up by the cemetery west of Great Bend. Mr. Schaeffer had an active part in the

building of Great Bend and was associated with all the old timers who have helped to make Barton County famous and productive. We show here a likeness of Mr. Schaeffer.



HENRY SCHAEFFER

Who Built the First Building and was the Father of the First White Child Born in Great Bend.

## FERDINAND C. MANETH

FERDINAND C. MANETH was born in Austria March 7, 1872, and came to Barton County with his parents when he was six years of age. This was in 1878 and his father took up land in Walnut township and he was one of the men who had so much to do with the development of that part of Barton County. His father's name was Ferdinand Vincent Maneth and up until the time of his death in 1906 was one of the best known men in this part of the state. The younger Maneth now

owns his home place consisting of 320 acres of good land. Mr. Maneth was married to Miss Anna Cook October 25, 1893, and they are the parents of six children as follows: Fred, 12 years; Anna, 10 years; Henry 9 years; William, 6 years; Mary 3 years and Louise, 6 months of age. The residence consists of eight rooms in addition to bath, closets, etc., and is surrounded by shade trees and an orchard covering about an acre of ground and containing trees of several varieties of fruits com-

mon to this section of the country. The barn is 32 by 76 feet in dimensions and is arranged for taking care of a large number of animals. The Maneth family is one of the best known in Barton County on account of the fact that they came here at a time when the county was being developed and just emerged from the frontier stage. This family passed through the hard times of the 80's and had much to do with the work of making this county one of the best in the State of Kansas and one of the

leading agricultural sections of the world. Mr. Maneth's mother lives with him and his brother on the home place which is one of the most attractive farms in the county. Mr. Maneth always maintains a good grade of cattle and horses and gives personal attention to all his farming work. He has learned the farming business by experience and is one of the successful young farmers of that part of the county.

### CHARLES B. HOWELL

**C**HARLES B. HOWELL was born at Winterset, Madison County, Iowa, November 10, 1867, and came to Barton County in 1878. He was married September 7, 1893, to Miss Mary Ellen Langford of this county. They have four children as follows: Jennie Evelyn, 17 years of age; Ada Gertrude, 15 years of age; Edna Gladys, 14 years of age and Virgil Vernon, 8 years of age. The children are being educated in the schools of the county. The family resides in Great Bend

situated in a bend in Walnut creek and is surrounded by large, well kept shade trees which are found on three sides of the buildings. The residence contains nine rooms in addition to bath, closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 30 feet square and among the other buildings are found an automobile garage, granary and all the other necessary buildings usually found on a modern Barton County farm. Mr. Howell is one of the best known men in the county and has had a great deal



Residence of Charles B. Howell

in a modern residence at 2912 Broadway with the exception of three months of each year which they spend on the country home place. It is located fourteen miles northwest of Great Bend and comprises the east half of section 36 in Walnut township. In addition to this land Mr. Howell owns a quarter section in Clarence township which he farms in addition to the home place. He also owns a quarter of land in Ford County. The Howell country home is one of the most attractive to be found in that part of the county. It is beautifully

to do with the development of the county's resources. In addition to his own interests Mr. Howell has found time to take an active part in affairs that concern the welfare of the county and has served on the school board and is one of those men who came here in the early days when the county was in need of development and went through the hardships that were sustained by those men to the end that Barton County could be made one of the best counties in the State of Kansas.

## OTIS EVERS

OF the many younger farmers in Barton County none is better known than Otis Evers. He was born in Indiana April 7, 1879, and came to Barton County with his par-

dren: Leslie, 8 years of age; Claire, 6 years of age; Elmer, 4 years of age; Hazel, 2 years of age, and Harley who is 4 months old. Mr. Evers farms 320 acres of land, 160 of which



Home of Otis Evers

ents when he was five years of age. His father, Boyd Evers, is one of the old timers of the county who is still actively engaged in farming, and is mentioned in another part of

belongs to his brother. He has been farming for himself for several years and his home place is the northwest quarter of section one, Buffalo township. The residence contains nine



Threshing Outfit at Work in the 90's

this book. Mr. Evers was married November 13, 1893, to Miss Maud Barger of Stafford County and they are the parents of five chil-

rooms in addition to the bath, closets, etc., and is situated in a beautiful spot surrounded by trees and other foliage. The barns of



which there are two, are 28 by 56 feet and 16 by 24 feet in dimensions. The other out-buildings are well built and show that Mr. Evers is an enterprising farmer. He is contemplating the erection of an elevator and when this and other improvements he will make this year are finished he will have as fine a set of improvements as can be found in that part of the county. The Evers family is one of the best known in Barton County as they have had a great deal to do with the de-

veloping of its residences and have helped in no small way in making Barton County one of the best in the State of Kansas and one of the most important agricultural sections of the country. In addition to the other improvements Mr. Evers has a well arranged orchard which covers about four acres of land and contains trees representing nearly all varieties of fruits that are common to this section of the state.

### JAMES SHELDON WINGET



Residence of J. S. Winget

ONE of the best known men in Barton County and one who has had a great deal to do with the upbuilding and developing of that part of it lying adjacent to the town of Albert is James Sheldon Winget. He was born in Delaware County, Ohio, March 24, 1856. He was raised in the state of Iowa and came to Barton County in March, 1878. Upon his arrival he took up a homestead in Ness County but soon after he had proved up on it he took up his permanent residence in this county. He is well known in all parts of the county and enjoys a most enviable reputation as an auctioneer. He has had charge of a majority of the big sales that have been held in his section of the county in recent years. His services have been sought in this capacity by people in all parts of Barton, and his experience and knowledge of values and wide acquaintance makes it possible for him to always give satisfaction to both the buyer and seller. For the past twenty-five years he has practiced as a veterinarian and has been most successful in this profession. He has by actual experience gained a great deal of knowledge about the equine family, their diseases

and ailments and he is called by some of the leading horse and cattle owners of the county when the services of an experienced veterinarian are required. He was married March 23, 1881, to Miss Della Bridges of this county and they are the parents of six children as follows: Clara, 30 years of age, is now Mrs. M. L. Worden of Albert; Myra, 26 years of age, is a teacher in the schools of the county; John G., 24 years of age; May, 19; Roger, who died in January 1911, when he was 21 years of age and James, 15 years of age. Mr. Winget's home place adjoins the town of Albert on the north where he owns 200 acres of land. He also owns 175 acres in Oklahoma, a half section in Scott County, a section in Rush County and has always taken an active part in the business of farming. His residence contains 10 rooms and surrounded by a fine set of improvements, and is one of the most attractive homes in that part of the county. Mr. Winget has always taken an active part in the affairs of his community and has held township offices and is known as an enterprising and progressive citizen.



## HENRY MEYER

ONE of the best known families of Buffalo township is that of Henry Meyer who came to America from Germany where he was born September 18, 1842. He first located in Chicago where he remained for about six months before he went to New Orleans where he resided until 1870 when he came to Barton County, Kansas. He came to this part of the state with the Reinecke and Schantz families and since his arrival here has always

Flora, 23, is at home; William, 19, is also at home; Eddie, 17, lives at Garfield, and Fred, 14, lives at home. The home place is located on the northwest quarter of section 4, Great Bend township and is one of the nicest farm homes in that part of the county. The residence contains eight rooms in addition to the closets, pantries, etc., and is a modernly built dwelling. In addition to the land on the home place Mr. Meyer owns a quarter section of



Home of Henry Meyer

taken an active part in the farming business in Buffalo township. He was married in 1867 to Miss Mary Jilg and they are the parents of ten children as follows: Henry, 35 years, lives in Heizer and runs a threshing outfit; Charles, 30, is farming in Comanche County; Mary, 33, is now Mrs. Jacob Weltmer of Rush Center; August, 27, is a carpenter by trade and lives at home; Antone, 21, lives at home; Annie, 25, is now Mrs. Wm. Shuss of Garfield;

land in Comanche County and it is being farmed by Mr. Meyer's son Charles. The home place contains a three acre orchard which contains trees that bear nearly all varieties of fruits common to this section of the country. The barn is 75 by 35 feet in dimensions and is arranged for the accommodation of a large number of animals. Mr. Meyer is one of the best known men in that part of the county and is an enterprising and progressive citizen.

## LESLIE JAMES CARAWAY

LESLIE JAMES CARAWAY was born June 8, 1888, in Barton County, Kansas, is one of those native products who has taken up the work of farming and will continue the development of the county's resources which was so ably begun by their fathers in the early days. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Caraway who came to this county in 1885. Mr. Caraway died in 1900 and since that time Leslie James Caraway has carried on the management of the home place which comprises the southeast quarter of section 19, Great Bend township. Mr. Caraway's mother died June 2, 1907. She was survived

by Leslie James, who is now 24 years of age; Beatrice 20, Kent, 16 and George 22 years of age. The elder Caraway was one of the best known men in the county and for a number of years after his arrival he taught school but finally took up the occupation of farming which he followed until his death which was a great shock to his many friends in all parts of the county. The residence on the home place consists of eight rooms in addition to the closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 42 by 44 feet in dimensions in the main building, and like the other out-buildings and residence, is well built and substantial. The

home place is nicely situated and is surrounded by a small orchard and shade trees. In addition to the land on the home place Mr. Caraway farms another quarter which he rents. This land is located south of the home place. The Caraway family is one of the best

known in that section of the county and it is one that has had a great deal to do with the development of the county's resources and in making it one of the best in the State of Kansas.

### GEORGE PARKER WILSON

**G**EORGE PARKER WILSON was born in Jefferson County, Kansas, April 10, 1863 and came to Barton County in July, 1885. In September of the same year he moved to the county with his family and took up his permanent residence. He first lived in Albion township where he remained until 1900, when he moved to his present home place which comprises the southwest quarter of section 13, Eureka township. Mr. Wilson was one of the first Barton County farmers to take up the modern idea of giving his farm a name, and it is now known and is registered, "The

tation; and "Tom," a well built "Clyde and Coach." Mr. Wilson has every reason to be proud of these horses as they are known wherever good horse flesh is talked in the county. Mr. Wilson was married November 12, 1885, to Miss Ida M. Ingram in Jefferson County and they were the parents of five children as follows: Nannie S., 26 years of age, is now Mrs. Charles Younkin of Great Bend; George Grover, 25 years of age, is residing in Rush County; Rhoda May, 23 years of age, is now Mrs. Frank French of Hoisington; Gertrude Pearl, 21 years of age, is now Mrs. James M. Mc-



The Eureka Golden Rule Stock Farm

Eureka Golden Rule Stock Farm." It is located ten miles northwest of Great Bend and is one of the most attractive and best improved places in that section of the county. The residence contains ten rooms in addition to closets, pantries, etc. The barn which is neatly painted and bears the name of the farm is 44 by 60 feet and is equipped with modern appliances for handling hay and manure. Mr. Wilson has always taken a great interest in improving the breed of the horses, cattle and hogs of the farmers of the county and has made a success of breeding and raising Short Horn cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and now owns two of the finest stallions in the county. The horses are known as "George Dewey," a big, fine Percheron that enjoys a good repu-

culation, also of Hoisington, and Lora Edith, now Mrs. Harry Rogers, 2 years of age, of Spearville, living at Spearville. Mr. Wilson survived his first wife and in 1900 was married to Miss Flora Gale Mitchell of this county and they are the parents of two children: Valeria Josephine, 8 years of age and Fleta Marie, 3 years of age. With all Mr. Wilson's private interests he has found time to take an active part in the affairs of his township and has served as trustee of Albion township and has also been a member of the school board. Mr. Wilson came to this county at a time when it required men of experience and men who had faith in the future of this section to make it one of the best counties in the State of Kansas.

# ..... Hoisington .....



WHEN the main western line of the Missouri Pacific railroad was being built west from Kansas City, and the construction force had reached a point near where is now the townsite of Hoisington, a company of well known Kansas men began the laying out of the town that takes its name from the head of the company, A. J. Hoisington, one of the pioneers of Barton County and for many years engaged in the newspaper business in Great Bend.

The townsite company was composed of

the place was taken by A. H. Baker in 1887.

In 1887 a great many people from Iowa, Illinois and other eastern states, began to arrive and the town began its growth which has been remarkable from the fact that it was not of the spasmodic, boom kind, but has been steady and substantial until now the town has a population of 2,200. This number will be greatly increased when the Missouri Pacific shops are in operation with a full force of men.



East School, Hoisington

A. J. Hoisington, C. Samuels, H. T. Weaver, E. L. Chapman, Edward and Clayton Moses and J. V. Brinkman of Great Bend, these gentlemen having a one-half interest in the company. The remainder of the interest in the company was owned by J. V. McCracken and Brothers and E. C. Moderwell.

The first substantial building to be erected on the townsite was a two-story structure which was occupied by the firm of Brooker and Brown with a stock of general merchandise. This was in 1886, shortly after the townsite company was organized. The first agent of the town company was A. Mitchell, who served for about a year, when he retired and

The town was incorporated in 1888 as a city of the third class, and at the first city election E. M. Carr was elected mayor. The council was made up of men who were progressive and steps were immediately taken to make the town one that offered good advantages for home making.

The territory surrounding Hoisington is among the best and most productive in Barton County, and with the beginning of the town a great many names were added to the rural districts' population through the sale of farm land to eastern people. As the soil was developed and made to produce more and more each year the demand for supplies grew

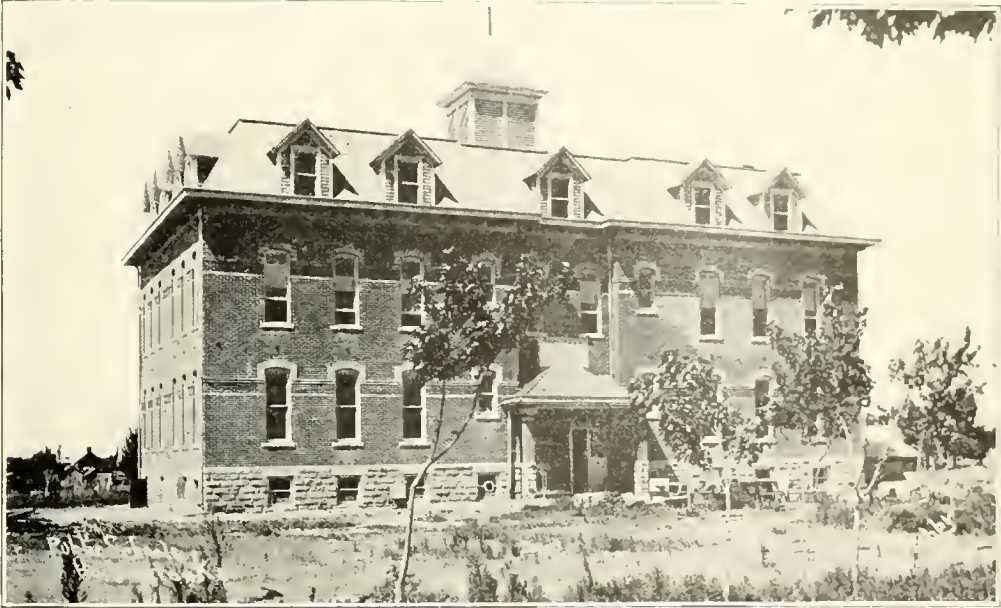


and a number of good stores were added to Hoisington's business section. The first bank was established by A. J. Hoisington in 1887.

The schools of Hoisington have always been maintained on the same high standard as is found in all parts of Barton County. The

vision for a large increase in the attendance.

Hoisington's population is made up of law-abiding people and the religious advantages offered by the town are second to no town in this part of the country. The following denominations are represented by large congregations



West School Building, Hoisington



Old School Building, Hoisington (Burned)

city schools are among the best attended in the county. There are two fine buildings, one on the east and one on the west side of town. In these buildings there is plenty of room to take care of all the pupils enrolled and the future has been taken care of by pro-

visions and commodious and modern houses of worship: Catholic, United Brethren, Christian, Methodist and German Lutheran. All the societies usually found in connection with churches of these denominations are active in Hoisington and have large member-



ships and accomplish a great deal of good in the field of religious endeavor.

The business section of Hoisington is well built and the stores which represent nearly all lines of the mercantile trade, contain large

A fine sewage system was recently completed at a cost of \$45,000 and it adds greatly to the advantages of the town as a place in which to make a home. A local company operates a modern electric and ice plant that meets the



Christian Church, Hoisington



United Brethren Church

and well selected lines of goods. There are six general stores, three banks, three drug stores and many other stores that are operated on a high standard of excellence.

Hoisington has a municipal water plant that supplies water for domestic and other purposes at a nominal cost to the consumer.

demands of the town in a most acceptable manner.

The officers of the city at the present time are: Charles Hall, mayor; F. A. Soderstrom, treasurer; J. L. Pieper, clerk; B. F. Jones, police judge; J. C. Ready, marshal, and J. R. Williams, water commissioner. The council

is composed of the following: T. C. Morrison, president; H. E. Willard, Phil Ochs, Jr., J. M. Lewis, M. H. Beckett, A. Kindsvater, G. W. Cooney and J. F. Stoskopf.

Hoisington is a freight and passenger division on the Missouri Pacific railroad and the company operates at this point the largest shops between Sedalia and Pueblo and,

shops. This building is the roundhouse and has a concrete foundation with fifteen 63-foot engine pits. It is a brick building with the most modern apparatus and appliances. Two sides of the structure are composed of glass which allows plenty of light to filter in. It contains 2,000 yards of concrete, has a turntable with a diameter of seventy-five feet,



Hoisington M. E. Church



Missouri Pacific Shops at Hoisington

next to the Sedalia shops, are the largest owned by this company on its entire system. The pay roll of the railroad men in Hoisington adds greatly to the prosperity of the city and makes it not alone dependent on the farmers in the surrounding country for trade.

September 28, 1910, work was begun on the first building that makes up the large number composing the Missouri Pacific

a 100,000-gallon capacity hot well for the purpose of washing boilers, etc.

The coal chute has a capacity of 500 tons of coal and is the type made by the Robinson & Schafer Co. It has elevators with a capacity for lifting 125 tons of coal per hour and a storage capacity for fifty tons of sand. Green sand is made ready for use after it has been lifted by a Holuman elevator system to the

top of the chute where it is dried by a steam drying apparatus. From the dryer it is conducted through chutes to the storage bins from where it is supplied to the engines as needed. This system almost entirely eliminates hand work and results in a high class product. Near the coal chutes are found two 100,000-gallon water tanks that afford an endless supply of good water. The water is forced into the tanks by modern pumping systems and their close proximity to the coal chutes makes it possible for an engine to be

all parts of the different buildings is composed of three wells near the powerhouse—powerful pumps that force water into the pipe lines that conduct it to all parts of the works. The reservoir for the reserve supply of water has a capacity of 100,000 gallons.

The power for the plant is furnished by powerful engines and boilers housed in a large building from where power is transmitted to all parts of the works by twenty-four wooden poles strung with wire of high carrying capacity.



E. R. Moses Mercantile Co., Hoisington

supplied with coal, water and sand in the shortest possible time.

The cinder pit on which work was begun October 24, 1910, is 225 feet in length with a depressed track which allows the work of cleaning the fire box of an engine to be done quickly and thoroughly.

The blacksmith and machine buildings are large and equipped with all the latest labor saving machinery and are capable of turning out a great amount of work in the shortest possible time and when in full operation will give employment to a large number of men.

The system by which water is supplied to

On the grounds are found a number of other buildings which include the offices of the different heads of departments and when the shops are working at full capacity it is expected that a force of 1,600 men will be required. The total cost of the plant is about \$1,000,000. All the buildings are amply protected against fire by the latest and most approved methods.

The Missouri Pacific shops is an establishment of which the people of Barton County are justly proud and it is a big thing for the town of Hoisington from a business standpoint.

## PEOPLES STATE BANK, HOISINGTON

The Peoples State Bank of Hoisington, Kansas, was organized May 25th, 1903, with E. R. Moses, president, O. P. Putman, vice-president, W. B. Lucas, cashier, and the following directors, Henry Wildgen, D. J. Lewis, T. C. Morrison, Robt. Merten, R. H. Moses, E. H. Heath, G. N. Moses and E. R. Moses.

The bank opened for business June 15, 1903 in the back room of T. C. Morrison's Mercantile house. In a very short time it moved to its

present quarters in the J. B. McCauley Opera House Building, which they purchased in May, 1904. They immediately enlarged the opera house to its present size and extended their banking rooms to its present dimensions, making one of the finest banking rooms in the State of Kansas, being finished with marble on the outside and marble and mahogany on the inside. With rooms for customers' use, directors' room, and private rooms for its officers

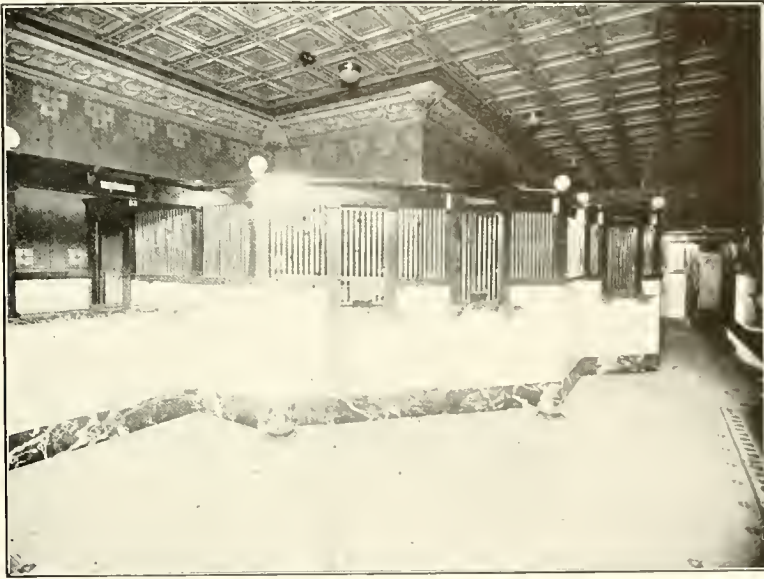


including all the conveniences modern science can give, such as electric lights, hot water heat, lavatories and rest rooms for its customers. The officers find it a pleasure to do business in its present quarters. Since the bank was organized Mr. O. P. Putnam, Henry Wildgen and G. N. Moses have passed away. E. R. Moses, Sr., has been president from its begin-

was practically made from the earnings of the bank.

The present directors are T. C. Burton, vice-president and director, M. H. Beckett, H. C. Wildgen, E. R. Moses, Jr., Robt. Merten and E. R. Moses, Sr.

The deposits of this bank are over \$160,900 now and are constantly increasing. The loans



Peoples State Bank, Hoisington

ning. Mr. W. B. Lucas has been cashier from its beginning. Frank Soderstrom who was book-keeper is now assistant cashier and Miss Eva Goodwin has been book-keeper since July, 1910. The bank has had a regular semi-annual dividend since 1905 and has increased its surplus each year until January, 1911, the capital stock was increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000 with a surplus of \$2,500. This increase

and discounts are over \$140,000. The success of this bank has been from its very beginning and one of its reasons for its success is the manner in which it treats its customers and people in general. Once a customer, always a customer. The deposits of this bank are guaranteed under the state law. The bank pays interest on all time and saving deposits.

## RAILROAD Y. M. C. A.

**A**NOTHER institution of which the people of Hoisington and Barton County are justly proud is the Railroad Young Men's Christian Association which is a branch of the International Y. M. C. A., and was established in Hoisington in 1902. The money for the work was obtained by private subscription, donations by the Missouri Pacific railroad and Miss Helen Gould. The building is in the center of five 25-foot lots on the main street of Hoisington in close proximity to the M. P. depot. In addition to the cash which Miss Gould gave the society for the erection of the building she also aided it with special donations consisting of books for the library, musical instruments and she also provided for an emergency hospital, but this department of the institution was abandoned when the hospital was

opened. The building is 60 feet square, and the big dormitory room gives ample accommodation for forty beds which are kept neat and clean and are rented to members of the association for 15 cents per night. In the buildings are found in addition to the dormitory room and foyer, a reading room, bath room, library, correspondence room, all of which are equipped neatly and conveniently. The bath room contains three tubs and five shower baths, is strictly sanitary and all articles used in bathing are furnished the members free of charge. The reading room is nicely furnished and on the tables are found scores of daily and weekly papers, magazines and periodicals all of which are for the free use of the members. The library contains twelve large cases filled with 2,000 volumes that cover every subject for entertaining and



educational reading. The correspondence room is supplied with writing material and is furnished in keeping with the remainder of the rooms. The lobby is large and is used by the members for playing chess, checkers, etc. The institution is not intended for railroad men alone, but contains on its member-

The religious education of the members is not overlooked and an air of good fellowship permeates all the work of the institution. The price of membership is \$5.00 per year. The place is managed by a board of directors consisting of seven members, but the active part of the work is most ably done by T. C. Straw,



Railroad Y. M. C. A., Hoisington

ship rolls a large majority of the men of Hoisington. The membership averages around 600 but at times the list contains as many as 800 names.

In addition to the privileges mentioned above, at frequent intervals the members are given the benefit of lectures on practical subjects in the auditorium or assembly room.

secretary, and H. R. Popejoy, assistant. Mr. Straw devotes his entire time to directing the work of the association and he is untiring in his efforts to make it a place where men may come and feel at home and get the benefit of living in clean, wholesome surroundings.

## LIND HOSPITAL AND TRAINING SCHOOL

The Lind Hospital and Training School was established by Rev. W. J. Lind in the city of Hoisington and was thrown open to the public in February, 1912. It is a general hospital for the treatment of medical and surgical cases and is one of the best equipped institutions of the kind in this part of the country. The building, which is three stories in height, is located in a most desirable spot in the northwest part of Hoisington within eight blocks of the business section. The building is made of brick with re-enforced concrete floors. The building of this hospital was due to the fact that Dr. Lind, while a minister of the gospel, has always been interested in the treatment and cure of diseases of

the human race. He was born near the Ural mountains, in Russia, April 11, 1881. He came to America in 1902 and spent the first year after his arrival in travel during which time he visited all parts of the United States and Canada. In 1903 he entered the Concordia Seminary at Concordia, Illinois. He finished his studies at this institution in 1910. During the year 1908 Rev. Lind was in the field as a missionary. At the conclusion of his studies he was ordained a minister of the German Lutheran church, and at once accepted a call from Milberger, Kansas, where he remained until he started the hospital in Hoisington. He still has charge of congregations of this denomination at Galatia and Wilson.

The hospital has room for thirty patients in addition to the rooms that are maintained by the Missouri Pacific railroad. The operating room at the hospital is equipped with all the most modern appliances and devices for the practice of surgery in its most intricate forms. Dr. Lind spent two and a half years in the study of medicine in the old country before coming to America. He was married September 1, 1910, to Miss Matilda Borell and they have one bright boy, Alexander, who, at this writing, is one year old.

In connection with the hospital a training school has been established under the supervision of the superintendent of nurses, assisted by a competent corps of physicians. The course comprises three years, which will render them thoroughly qualified to receive a diploma. While the didactic work is carried on in the class room, the pupil nurse has



Rev. Lind



Lind Hospital, Hoisington

every possible chance to study her chosen profession in its practical lines by personal contact with the different phases of her work. During the probationary term the applicant

has ample opportunity to discover whether she wishes to continue in the work and also to demonstrate whether she is qualified to remain. Applicants may enter at any time.

## HENRY A. C. HARTMAN

ONE of the best known of the really old timers of Logan township was Henry A. C. Hartman. He was born in Prussia in 1840 and came to this country with his parents when he was a child. He was raised in the state of Ohio and came to Barton Coun-

ty in 1875. He located a homestead in Logan township, one mile north and three miles south of the township of Claflin. In 1876 he brought his family to the new country and began the work of building a home. Until the time of his death which occurred in July, 1907,

he took an active part in the development of the resources of the northeastern part of the county of Barton. His death was due to drowning in Cow creek, where as the result of the water being exceptionally high his wagon in which he was riding was overturned and he was thrown into the water while he was attempting to cross. Mr. Hartman was married to Miss Anne Elizabeth Shellhase in Ohio and they were the parents of eleven children. Mrs. Hartman came to America from Russia where she was born in Hess-Cassel province. She arrived in America in 1845 at a time when this country was in the throes of a scare due to the cholera, which caused the death of a great number of people. Mrs. Hartman at that time was six years of age and many of her relatives and people who came over on the boat with her died as a result of being afflicted with this disease. Of the eleven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hartman, two of them died in infancy. Those who are living are: Louise, who is now Mrs. F. W. Waknitz of Ness County; Lydia, who is now Mrs. W. H. Barnes of Preston, Kansas;

Charles A., who resides in Reno County, where he is interested in farming; Matilda H., who is the wife of Dr. S. B. Russell of Yuma, Colorado; John H., who was born in Logan township, February 15, 1877, and now resides in Hoisington where he is vice president of the First National bank, an institution which he founded. He is also engaged in the insurance and loan business in that city. He was married to Miss Dale Nimocks, daughter of G. W. Nimocks of Great Bend, January 1, 1902. They have two children, Blanche and R. Lynn.

Edwin E. is a traveling representative of the Acme Harvester company with headquarters at Wichita; James F. is in the hardware business at Preston; Jesse S. is now Mrs. E. R. Jukes of Boise, Idaho; Benjamin H. is farming near Preston; Mrs. Hartman is now living in Idaho with her daughter, Mrs. Jukes. There is no family that is better known in Barton County than the Hartmans and John H., who is mentioned above is one of the best known business men of Hoisington and is an enterprising and progressive citizen.

## ROY CORNELIUS

**R**OY CORNELIUS was born in McPherson, Kansas, March 31, 1883, and came to Hoisington in 1902 and bought the Hoisington Dispatch which was established in 1889 by Ira H. Clark, who later sold it to Franklin Brothers, who, in turn, sold it to Roy. Mr. Cornelius learned the printing trade in Great Bend under Ira H. Clark and D. T. Armstrong. He was married in 1908 to Miss Theresa Helfert and they are the parents of two children: Helen, 3 years of age, and Esther, about a year and a half old at this writing. The Dispatch office, which is the pride of its owner, is one of the best equipped printing plants in this section of the state. It contains a modern linotype, a good press for newspaper work and good presses for the job department. The Dispatch is a weekly paper devoted to the interests of Hoisington and Barton County and since Mr. Cornelius has been guiding its policy has made a great number of friends. Roy is a capable, enterprising business man and numbers his friends by the score both in the newspaper profession of the state of Kansas and among the people with whom he comes in contact in other lines of business. He occupies a nice residence in Hoisington and devotes all his time to the management of his business. At the present time he is official

printer for the County of Barton having been elected at the county election in 1910. He has filled this office in a satisfac-



Roy Cornelius

tory manner and in a way that reflects credit on himself, his office and his many friends in all parts of the county.



# ... Ellinwood ...



**T**HE certificate of ownership and dedication of the original plat of Ellinwood is dated September 6, 1873, and signed by Alden Speare, president of the Arkansas Valley Town Company. It was acknowledged before George L. Goodwin, a notary public, in Suffolk County, Massachusetts. The plat was certified to by John M. Cummins, a surveyor, but bears no date. He did not do the actual work of survey, neither did Colonel Ellinwood, but it is understood that J. W. Jackson, one of the quaint characters of that time did the field work. The town company could not file the plat until it got title from the railroad company, and the latter could not obtain title from the government until the

Humboldt, Washington and Bismark streets, named and located as they are now. There was nothing south of the railroad included in the original plat.

Ellinwood is located on section 31-19-11, and the center of the section is the southeast corner of the lot on which a part of the business section of the town is built. Washington street is commonly called Main street, it being the main business thoroughfare.

The supplemental plat which includes all of section 31, north of the river, except the forest reservation of 25 and 71-100ths acres and all south of the railroad and east of Schiller street, was filed for record July 8, 1878. The name of the surveyor does not ap-



Main Street, Ellinwood

road was built to the west line of the state. This was done in 1872 in the month of December. This caused delay in the filing of the town plat, but the plat was finally filed for record with Register of Deeds D. N. Heizer, October 28, 1873 at 9:05 p. m.

The first plat included the south half of block 1, and all of blocks six, seven, ten and eleven. The railroad right of way, a short side track on the north side of the main track, and the depot were shown on the blue print of the plat. The depot was shown to be directly south of the Wolf hotel building. Santa Fe, Topeka and Atchison avenues and

pear. The plat shows the same uneven banks of the river as on the plats of the original government survey. The river has receded from a great distance since this work was done. Both the Catholic and Protestant cemeteries appear on the plat.

All the streets extending north and south were given German names except the main business street which was named Washington. The north and south streets beginning on the east side are Wiclan, Gothe, Schiller, Bismark, Washington, Humboldt, Arndt, Wilhelm and Fritz. The avenues beginning on the north in their order are Northern, Colo-



rado, Barton, Ellinwood, Atchison, Topeka, Santa Fe, and south of the railroad are Chestnut, Maple, Walnut and Cedar. The names of all the streets remain the same as when platted. As the original settlers were

Smith, probably the ablest German immigration agent who ever did business in the State of Kansas. He happened to select this locality as one of the points on the Santa Fe road where he would colonize German buyers of



Plowing Outfit of G. H. Ernsting Near Ellinwood

not German, nor was the controlling element of the old timers, the Arkansas Valley Town Co., that owned this town, German. The query has often been asked why the streets are given German names. The answer usually is, all the settlers will remember C. B.

Smith. On his maps for circulation among the Germans he marked the territory adjacent to Ellinwood Germania. C. B. Smith, the German immigration agent of the Santa Fe Railroad Co. caused this part of Kansas to be settled by Germans.

### City Government

Ellinwood became a city of the third class, April 22 1878. On that date a petition signed by nearly every qualified elector on the town-site was presented to District Judge Samuel R. Peters at Newton, Kansas. The judge immediately issued an order creating the City of Ellinwood. Its boundary lines were the exterior lines of section 31-19-11, according to the original government survey. The order directing the first election was given and the election was held on the first day of May, 1878, at the office of J. D. Ronstadt, and George Bowers, George B. Gill, and Vancil S. Musil selected to be judges, and W. B. D. Monow, clerk. It also named J. D. Ronstadt, George W. Ashton and Charles W. Williamson to act as the board of canvassers. The latter were ordered to meet at the close of the polls and canvass the returns. The board met as directed and chose J. D. Ronstadt as clerk. The election resulted as follows: Mayor, F. A. Steckel, 43; J. D. Ronstadt, 14; Councilmen, Wm. Mangelsdorf, 56; Wm. Meisner, 46; George W. Ashton, 41; John W. Conroy, 39; O. M. Dotson, 35; L. M. Story, 20; W. W. D. Monow, 20; John Mousel, 15; James Ward, 9; John Wind, 1. Police judge,

George Towers, 56. Certificates of election were issued as follows: Mayor, F. A. Steckel; councilmen, Mangelsdorf, Meisner, Ashton, Conroy and Dotson. Police judge, Towers. The first council met and with all present, organized. H. J. Reints was city clerk by appointment, and the mayor appointed all the councilmen a committee on ordinances and then adjourned to May 7. No other business was transacted and the first business meeting of the council was held May 14. At this meeting a petition was granted Beal and Phipps to keep a dram shop, and a like petition was granted to Hess and Harmick. The council passed ordinance Number 1, which provided for the drafting and compiling of ordinances for the city of Ellinwood. At this meeting fourteen ordinances were passed, all relating to the duties of the city officers, except thirteen, relating to elections, fourteen concerning animals running at large and 15, relative to the sale of intoxicating liquors. The first council of Ellinwood laid the foundation for the building of a city and their work was thorough and had for its purpose the betterment of the community and the people residing therein.

### Schools

Ellinwood was included in the second school district to be organized in Barton County, in 1872, and was known as school district number 2. The first school was taught by Miss Carrie Bacon, daughter of Isaac Bacon. Later she married Thomas Towers. The first term of school began September 1, 1873, and ended January 1, 1874. For teaching this term Miss Bacon received the sum of \$125.00. The scholars were housed in a small frame building owned by William Misner. The school was later taught in a frame school building built especially for a school on the ground now occupied by the modern school building of which the town is so justly proud. Among those who attended the first school in Ellinwood may be mentioned Kittie Ellsworth, Wm. Halsey, John and Sina Hewitt, May Whitten, Lotta and Frank Towers, Charles L. Ba-

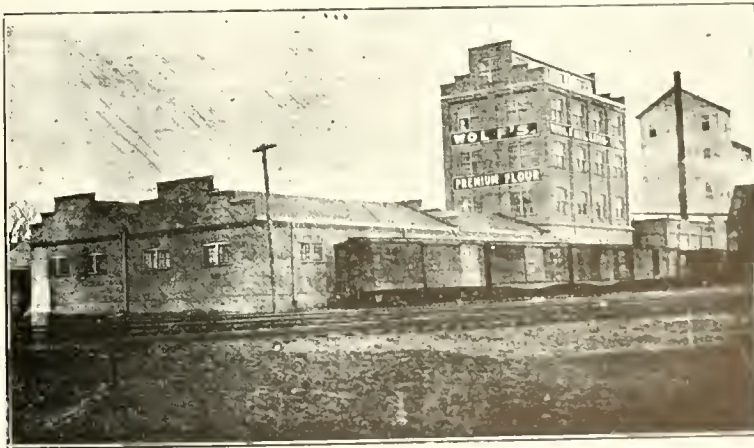
con, James and Lillie Hutchinson and Abraham Forsyth. The schools of Ellinwood have progressed with the town and nowhere in the state can there be found better educational advantages than are obtainable in Ellinwood.

Ellinwood has a population of about 1,300 and is growing every year in importance as a trading point and as a shipping point for agricultural products. It is on the main line of the Santa Fe railroad about forty miles west of Hutchinson and eleven miles east of Great Bend. It is also the western terminus of the Florence branch of the Santa Fe. This line runs through some of the richest portions of the state. Ellinwood has modern stores representing nearly all lines of retail trade, the best of churches and schools and its population is steadily growing in like proportion to other parts of Barton County.

### THE WOLF MILLING CO.

The Wolf Milling Company's establishment at Ellinwood is one of the largest and best equipped flour mills in the state of Kansas, and its products have had a great deal to do with earning Barton County's enviable reputation as a producer of the best of milling wheat. The mill is operated by John Wolf and his son, Fred. It was established in 1908, and has a capacity of 600 barrels per day. Since the first mill building and elevator was

Lotta Schaefer of Kansas City, Mo., July 1, 1901, and they are the parents of two children, one of whom is an infant at this writing, and the other being John Frederick. The elder Mr. Wolf has another child, Kate, who is now Mrs. George M. Heim of Ellinwood. The mill buildings and surroundings cover about a square block of ground and in addition to this interest the elder Mr. Wolf owns considerable town property in Ellinwood and



Wolf's Mill, Ellinwood

erected in the year mentioned additions have been made from time to time and the machinery and process in use have been kept up to the highest standard. John Wolf is one of the old timers of the county having come here from Ohio in 1877. He was born in Bremen, Germany, November 23, 1848. He was married in Toledo, Ohio, to Miss Kate Haas, July 5, 1871, and it was in that city that Fred was born May 23, 1872. Fred was married to Miss

Great Bend as well as two sections of land in the county of Barton. The flour sold under the name of "Wolf's Premium" has made a most gratifying record wherever it has been used and reflects great credit on the establishment where it is made. The Wolf family is one of the best known in this section of the state, the members of it being enterprising and progressive and among the most substantial citizens of the county.

## JOHN McMULLEN

**J**OHN McMULLEN was born July 21, 1881, in Barton County and since 1895 has been engaged in the printing and publishing business with the exception of five years while he was engaged in farming west of Great Bend. He received his education in the schools of Barton County and began to learn the printing trade in the office of the Barton County Democrat in 1895. He was married October 7, 1892, to Miss Mabel DeMotte and they are the parents of five children, four of whom are living, two boys and two girls, while their first child died in infancy. January 1, 1911, Mr. McMullen took charge of the Ellinwood Leader having purchased the plant, and since it has been under his management he has made of it one of the leading weekly publications of this part of the state. The Leader was established in September, 1896 by J. W. A. Cook who published it until the fall of 1909 when John C. Meyers was appointed manager of the plant. Mr. Meyers continued the publication of the paper until Mr. McMullen took charge.

There are few, if any, young business men of the county who are better or more favorably known than John McMullen. Being a pro-

duct of the county he is naturally very proud of his home town and county and he devotes his paper and his personal efforts to the best interests of the community in which he lives.



John McMullen, Editor of  
Leader

## EDWARD L. SMITH



E. L. Smith, Pres. of Citizens  
State Bank, Ellinwood

**E**DWARD L. SMITH was born in Edwardsville, Illinois, February 5, 1864, and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian P. Smith. He remained in his native state in his boyhood and attended the public schools, later finishing a course at the Central Wesleyan at Warrenton, Mo., in 1884. He received the degree of A. M. at this institution which is the Alma Mater of some of the country's best known statesmen and business men. While Mr. Smith's parents did not come to Barton County, they invested in Kansas land after their son had located here. Soon after Mr. Smith arrived in Barton County he with others organized the Citizens Bank of Ellinwood and since that time he has been closely identified with the financial and commercial life of the county. This was in 1889 and soon after the organization of the bank and at different times in the early nineties farmers living in the neighborhood of Ellinwood became discouraged with the prospects and it was frequently the case that a farmer would request Mr. Smith to return the farmer's note in return for which he would give him a deed for his land. Mr. Smith being possessed of unlimited confidence in the future of the county invariably advised against this procedure and many of the farmers who



had grown discouraged and afterwards "made good" thank Mr. Smith for his advice. Mr. Smith also owns the Smith Hardware Company's establishment in Ellinwood. Before coming to Ellinwood Mr. Smith taught school for three years in Illinois. After the organization of the Citizens Bank Mr. Smith was appointed assistant cashier and after serving four years in this capacity he became cashier and president which offices he now holds. Mr. Smith is a prominent member of the Elks, Eagles, Masons and Odd Fellows and is one of the best known men in Barton County. He was married in November, 1891, to Miss Mattie S. Harrison, a daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. B. L. Harrison of Barton County, and they are the parents of two children, E. Aubrey, 17 years of age and Elbert, 14 years of age, both of whom are being educated in the schools of the county. Mr. Smith in addition to his business interests owns considerable farming land in this and other counties and his mother and father are also interested in Kansas land. Mr. Smith has served the city of Ellinwood as mayor and has been a member of the school board a number of years and is at present treasurer of the board. He is an enterprising and successful business man and is well known in all parts of Kansas and Barton County.

### CITIZENS STATE BANK, ELLINWOOD

Along in the latter 80's E. L. Smith and other well known residents of the eastern part of the county of Barton decided that Ellinwood needed a good bank. Therefore in 1889 the Citizens State Bank was organized with a capital of \$5,000, with an authorized

cashier and secretary and these with P. B. Kimpler, G. H. Ernsting and H. P. S. Smith form the board of directors. The bank now has a surplus of \$32,000 and the deposits are approximately \$175,000. This bank has gained the confidence of the people by square deal-



Citizens State Bank, Ellinwood

capital of \$50,000. It first bore the name of the Citizens Bank but when it was chartered under the new state banking laws five years later it became known as the Citizens State Bank and the capital was made \$15,000. The officers of this bank are: E. L. Smith, president and cashier; Robert Shouse, assistant

ing methods and by extending to its friends and customers every accommodation that is consistent with safe banking methods. The bank occupies a modernly equipped building with an electrical burglar alarm and all modern appliances for protecting the valuables contained in the vaults.

### PEOPLES STATE BANK

The Peoples State Bank of Ellinwood was organized in March, 1908, with a capital of \$25,000, with the following officers and directors: J. H. D. Bosse, president; D. C. Johnson, cashier; Charles Mellies, assistant cash-

ier and C. Buck, Fred, Fred Wolf, E. D. Isorn and the president make up the board of directors. The bank has enjoyed a steady growth since its organization and at this writing has a surplus and undivided profits of



\$10,221, and the approximate average deposits amount to \$210,000. This bank has the largest deposits of any bank in the county outside of Great Bend and is one of the county's sub-

banking business. The interests of the bank's customers are carefully looked after by the officers of the bank and by careful management and by the use of modern banking



Peoples State Bank, Ellinwood

stantial financial institutions. The bank is located on the main street in a building that is furnished and equipped in a neat, convenient manner for the carrying on of a general

ideas this institution has gained the confidence of the people of that section of the county.



German Lutheran Church, Ellinwood

## J. H. D. BOSSE

**J**OHANN HERMAN DIEDRICH BOSSE, or D. Bosse, as he is better known in Barton County, was born in Hanover, Germany, November 1, 1852. He came to America in 1871 and located first in New York state where he remained two years, after which he went to Ohio, and from that state came to Barton County, Kansas, in 1875. He married Miss Catrina Lampe, in June, 1876, and they are the parents of two children: Marie, who is now Mrs. E. S. Brodie of Wichita, and Milton August Bosse, who resides in Ellinwood and is engaged in the farming business with his father. Milton August married Moneta Butts of Wichita, Kansas, in 1910. The elder Bosse farmed for twelve years after his ar-

cess in raising many varieties of apples. Near the town of Ellinwood Mr. Bosse maintains an orchard consisting of twenty acres in which are found trees bearing apples of such well known names as Jonathan, Grimes' Golden, Nero, Akin, Arkansas Black, Wine Sap, Schaeckleford, Black Twig, Missouri Pippin, etc. Here can also be found choice varieties of cherries. Mr. Bosse's orchard has attracted a great deal of attention not only at home, but it has been visited by government experts who on different occasions have spent a great deal of time in observing the ideas that have been used by Mr. Bosse in the cultivation of his trees. The trees are supplied with moisture by a large irrigating sys-



D. Bosse

rival in Barton County and has been one of the most successful of the old timers of Lakin township. After Mr. Bosse moved to Ellinwood he accepted a position as book-keeper for the Edwards & Fair Lumber Co. He was twice elected to the office of treasurer of Barton County, Kansas. The first property he obtained title to was railroad land northwest of Ellinwood. He now owns about 1,760 acres of land in the county, all of which is under cultivation and is being worked mostly by renters.

Although Barton County lays no claim to being an exceptionally good fruit country, this line of business has been made a specialty by Mr. Bosse and he has met with suc-

cess in raising many varieties of apples. Near the town of Ellinwood Mr. Bosse maintains an orchard consisting of twenty acres in which are found trees bearing apples of such well known names as Jonathan, Grimes' Golden, Nero, Akin, Arkansas Black, Wine Sap, Schaeckleford, Black Twig, Missouri Pippin, etc. Here can also be found choice varieties of cherries. Mr. Bosse's orchard has attracted a great deal of attention not only at home, but it has been visited by government experts who on different occasions have spent a great deal of time in observing the ideas that have been used by Mr. Bosse in the cultivation of his trees. The trees are supplied with moisture by a large irrigating system; the water being conducted to all parts of the orchard by the means of tiling placed under the surface of the ground. The water is pumped from below the surface by two large windmills and rotary pump supplied with power by a 5-horse power gasoline engine. The pump has a capacity of 200 gallons per minute. When moisture is supplied by rain the pumping plant is not needed but when the seasons are dry it is sometimes found necessary to operate the pumps as much as three weeks at different intervals during the year. A large pond confines the water that is pumped until it is needed. The pond has six outlets that make it possible to irrigate two acres of the orchard at a time. In all



Residence of D. Bosse, Ellinwood



Residence of Milton Bosse, Ellinwood

there are about six miles of tiling in the orchard and it is safe to say that Mr. Bosse is the leading orchardist in this part of the state of Kansas. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen and in addition to the property mentioned above he owns a great deal of town property in Ellinwood where he is

well known and recognized as one of the old timers of the county who has done a great deal to further its interests and make of it one of the most desirable from an agricultural standpoint, to be found in the entire country.



Scene From D. Bosse's Orchard, Ellinwood



# Great Bend



**I**N JULY 29, 1871, the company was chartered that had been previously selected for the townsite of Great Bend. This company consisted of Thomas J. Mitchell, C. R. Curtis, Clark H. Charles and Robert T. Shinn of Quincy, Ills.; James Israel of Mount Vernon, Ohio.; Samuel D. Houston of Manhattan, Kansas; John T. Norton and A. L. Williams of Topeka, Kansas, and Thomas L. Morris of Barton County.

It was the intention of the company to locate the town on the north half of section 34, township 19, range 13, which is southeast of the site finally decided upon. There were

the election of the following officers: A. A. Hurd, mayor; A. S. Allen, G. W. Poole, M. S. Kutch, Ed Markwort and D. Cooley, councilmen. Mr. Cooley moved from the city within a month after his election and his place was taken on the council by Edward Tyler. James C. Martin was the first police judge and A. C. Moses the first city clerk, while D. R. Smith and James Gainsford were the first treasurer and marshal, respectively.

At this time the principal business activity was in the cattle trade and large herds of cattle from northern Texas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma were driven from the pastures in



Crossing the Arkansas River at Great Bend 1872

several reasons why the site was changed, the principal one being that the present site is on higher ground and safer from the flood waters from the creeks and rivers.

The new town was christened Great Bend by Hiram Bickerdyke on account of the fact that it is located on the north bank of the Arkansas river at a point where the big bend in the river forms almost a half circle and the townsite is at the apex of this bend.

One year after the town was organized the first city election was held and it resulted in

those states, north to the nearest railroad point from where they were shipped to the eastern markets. Until the town of Great Bend was organized, this business was monopolized by Newton, Abilene and Wichita. However, the A. T. & S. F. railroad had been built west to Great Bend at the time the first city election was held and Great Bend's closer proximity to the southern ranges gave it an advantage that finally resulted in a large part of this business being shifted to this point. George N. Moses was one of the pioneers in

this business and drove the first herd of cattle to pass through Great Bend from Texas to Newton in 1872.

The first building to be erected on the townsite of Great Bend was the Drover's Cottage, afterwards the Southern Hotel, of which Colonel Thomas L. Stone was the first landlord. The first store building was erected by

bers of the first council. W. H. Odell was elected as a member of the city council at this election.

Like all western towns of that period, Great Bend was a typical border settlement and was made up of a population that included many cattle men and buffalo hunters. The hunters sold their hides in Great Bend and



Great Bend in 1872

Tyler and was also used as a residence. The hotel was located on lots 1 and 2, block 90, which is the ground now occupied by the Brinkman bank building. In all there were forty-two buildings erected on the townsite during the year 1872.

The first city administration accomplished a great deal in attracting business to the town

the cattle men loaded their stock on the cars in which they were taken to the markets.

In 1873, one year after the county was organized, there were 2,500 acres of land under cultivation and the harvest that year gave a yield that was considered mighty good and consisted of the following: 48 acres of wheat, 30 acres of barley and 75 acres of oats, as well



Great Bend in 1882

and encouraging the building of business and residence buildings. The principal work of the administration was in getting a part of the cattle trade from the towns farther east.

In 1873 the administration of A. A. Hurd was endorsed by the people of the town and he was re-elected as well as nearly all the mem-

as a large number of acres of hay and small acreage of corn.

It was in 1873 that work on the court house was begun, this being the first building of any size to be built within the limits of the townsite.

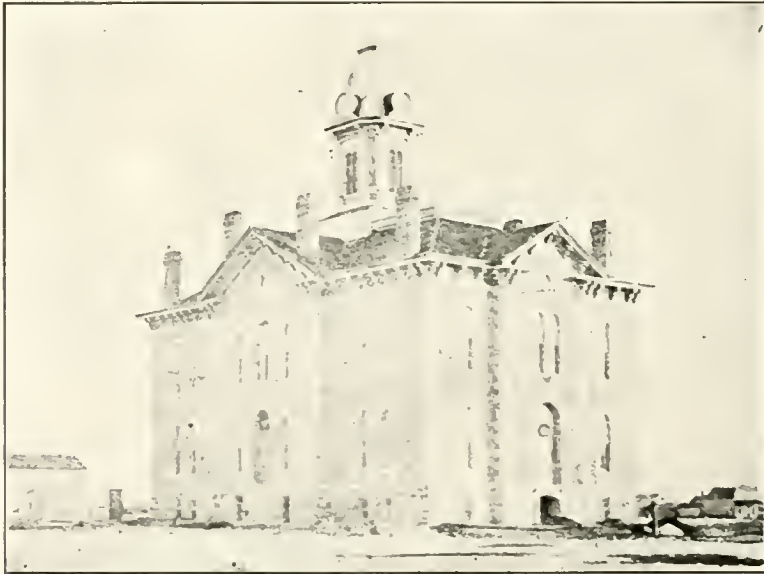
In 1874, at the city election, the following

were elected to fill the different offices: Samuel Maher, mayor; councilmen, C. W. Gray, L. C. Sooy, H. H. Kidder, G. N. Moses and A. S. Allen; treasurer, I. H. Upton; police judge, J. C. Martin; city clerk, A. J. Buckland and W. W. Winstead and William Leak, marshals. It was during this administration that the court house was completed and on July 4, the new building was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies.

The year 1874 was famous or notorious for a plague of grasshoppers, and has since been referred to as "Grasshopper Year." For several days these pests were in evidence in such great numbers that at times they obscured the sunlight and devoured everything with which they came in contact that was not proof against their hunger and ferocity. It is re-

Gainsford took William Leak's place as one of the city marshals. It was also during this year that the famous trial of "Hefty," a noted character of the county, was held. He was charged with murder but was acquitted by Judge W. R. Brown, sitting in the district court. "Hefty" was acquitted after having been accused of brutally murdering two Frenchmen, new arrivals in the county.

In 1875 the following officers were elected and appointed: R. Taylor, mayor; G. N. Moses, William Torrey, A. J. Buckland, E. W. Burton and John H. Taylor, councilmen; A. C. Moses, city clerk; E. L. Chapman, police judge; James Gainsford, marshal; D. N. Heizer, treasurer and A. A. Hurd, city attorney. It was during this year that "Mother Bickerdyke," the famous civil war nurse came



Court House in 1874. Southern Hotel in Background

lated by old timers that the hoppers would swoop down on a field of corn and when they rose there would be nothing left to denote that there had been anything on the spot except the bare prairie. They also tell of the pests having often eaten clothing, and incidents are cited where they actually stopped a railroad train by piling up on the tracks in such numbers as to make it impossible for the engines to push their way through them.

It was during this same year that a genuine Indian war dance was held on the court house square. The Indians to the number of about 200 were led by Spotted Horse, chief of the Pawnees. The Indians danced themselves into an awful frenzy, much to the amusement of the people of the town and Indians who did not take part in the dance.

During this year a change was made in the city administration and D. N. Heizer became treasurer; A. C. Moses, city clerk, and James

to Great Bend on a visit to her sons, James and Hiram Bickerdyke. She was prominent in the work of relieving sufferers from the famine caused by the grasshopper pest.

In 1876 the city election resulted in the following officers being chosen to carry on the affairs of the rapidly growing town: C. F. Dittenbacher, mayor; E. W. Burton, John Taylor, R. C. Bailey, William Odell and A. S. Barnes, councilmen; A. C. Moses succeeded himself as clerk; Josiah Clayton, city attorney; E. L. Chapman, police judge; A. S. Allen, treasurer, and George B. Hayden, marshal.

Like all western towns of that period Great Bend was infested with a number of men and women who belonged to the rough element and the work of the administration of 1876 was directed towards ridding the town of this undesirable class. By this time the cattle trade had drifted farther westward and Dodge City was the town where most of the



cattlemen and the cowboys made their headquarters. The administration succeeded in ridding the city of dance halls and obnoxious things that were a part of them. With the disappearance of this element the population which was enjoying a steady growth was made up of settlers and men who came here to engage in business or take up the work of farming. In fact this administration marked a new era in the life of the town.

The election of city officers in the year 1877 was marked by an issue that brought out some little argument. The question was whether or not the city officers should receive salaries, and A. C. Fair who stood for no salaries, received a majority of the votes and was elected mayor. The remainder of the city offices were filled as follows: G. H. Hulme, Joseph Gray, T. C. Cole, Chas. Rozel and E. C.

The affairs of the city were looked after during the year 1880 by the following: E. L. Chapman, mayor; A. J. Buckland, M. J. Fitts, F. Vollmer, A. C. Fair and Henry Moss, councilmen. During this period R. T. Ewalt was police judge; A. S. Allen, treasurer; Fred Long, clerk; W. H. Swift, marshal and street commissioner.

In 1881 the following city officers were elected: H. M. Kline, mayor; G. H. Hulme, Henry Moss, A. Laidlaw, A. C. Fair and A. J. Buckland, councilmen; R. T. Ewalt, police judge; James Clayton, city attorney; A. S. Allen, treasurer; W. P. Mellen, clerk and James Airheart, marshal.

The year 1882 was a good one for the cultivation of the soil and a number of new settlers arrived and located south of the river from Great Bend. At the election the follow-



Barton County Court House

Bailey, councilmen; W. H. Odell was appointed police judge; W. H. Dodge, city attorney; A. S. Allen, treasurer and A. B. Underhill, marshal.

The administration of 1878 was composed of the following: G. N. Moses, mayor; C. W. Gray, J. C. McClure, A. A. Power, C. B. Chapman and Fred Vollmer, councilmen. This council appointed E. L. Chapman, police judge; W. H. Dodge, attorney; A. S. Allen, treasurer; W. H. Odell, clerk and J. T. Airhart, marshal.

In 1879 the election of city officers resulted as follows: A. W. Gray, mayor; R. T. Ewalt, R. C. Bailey, A. J. Buckland, M. B. Fitts and A. C. Fair, councilmen. The following were appointed: G. W. Nimocks, attorney; E. L. Chapman, clerk; C. Goit, police judge; A. S. Allen, treasurer and W. W. Winstead, marshal.

ing officers were elected: J. V. Brinkman, mayor; H. M. Kline, C. Goit, G. H. Hulme, Wm. Bruesser and A. Laidlaw, councilmen. This council appointed the following: R. T. Ewalt, police judge; Elrick Cole, attorney; A. S. Allen, treasurer, C. Goit, clerk and James Airheart, marshal. It was during this year that the town was visited by a smallpox epidemic that caused the death of fourteen people as well as making business poor in all branches. The disease continued in its spread for several months and at times a panic was threatened that might have resulted in depopulating the town.

In 1883 the spring election resulted in G. W. Nimocks being elected mayor with the following councilmen; J. C. Gwinn, E. R. Moses, R. C. Bailey, A. C. Fair and E. W. Moses. Mr. Ewalt continued as police judge, B. F. Ogle was appointed attorney; James Clayton,



clerk; A. S. Allen, treasurer and J. T. Airheart continued as marshal.

The election of 1884 was without any particular interest as the town was enjoying a good growth and the people seemed to work with a community of interests. The following were elected: E. W. Moses, mayor; G. N. Moses, T. O. Cole, J. C. Gwinn, E. E. Benedict and Wm. Bruesser, councilmen. Mr. Ewalt was again appointed as police judge. C. G. Itt, attorney; R. A. Charles, clerk; A. S. Allen, treasurer. The police department remained the same.

In 1885 E. W. Moses succeeded himself as mayor and had with him as councilmen: Dr. S. J. Shaw, F. M. Burson, Wm. Bruesser, C. E. Patterson and W. H. Keeney. A. J. Buckland was appointed police judge; C. E. Castle, clerk; A. S. Allen, treasurer; J. W. Clarke, attorney, and Cal Crilley, marshal. This administration accomplished a great deal of good for the town. The first drainage system was

D. Roberts and Fred Vollmer; treasurer of board of education, J. V. Brinkman; members of the board of education, A. C. Shermerhorn, D. M. Woodburn, G. W. Nimocks, C. F. Culver, A. H. Connett, A. R. Moss, D. Turner, S. H. Moss. S. M. Rusk was appointed street commissioner; C. E. Castle, clerk; F. Patterson, marshal and C. Q. Newcomb, city engineer. In November, 1886, at a special election F. J. Kramer was elected councilman to take the place of W. G. Merritt, who resigned. It was this year that the city of Great Bend was separated from the township as far as political matters were concerned.

In January, 1887, C. E. Castle resigned as city clerk and his place was filled by the appointment of C. W. Murphy and at the same meeting of the council Wm. Osmond was appointed city attorney.

It was during the administration of 1887 that the city of Great Bend voted aid in the sum of \$23,000 for the Kansas & Colorado Pa-



Louis Zutavern, City Treas.

established and consisted of a ditch running from the west boundary of the city through the town to Walnut street, with laterals from both north and south.

In 1886 the city was changed from a city of the third class to a city of the second class. The officers of the city who had been elected in 1885 were appointed by Governor John Martin to serve until an election could be held under the new order of things. The election was held on the day appointed by the governor and resulted as follows: D. N. Heizer, mayor; A. S. Allen, treasurer; L. R. Nimocks, police judge; J. W. Clarke and A. J. Buckland, justices of the peace; John Dawson and L. P. Aber, constables. It was during this year that the first election of councilmen was held by wards and resulted as follows. First ward—J. Alets and G. W. Poole; second ward—W. G. Merritt and A. Laidlaw; third ward—D. J. Jones and D. C. Luse; fourth ward

cific Railroad company. This company built the road that is now a branch of the Missouri Pacific from Great Bend to Hoisington. At the election in that year the following were selected to fill the different offices: Mayor, A. J. Buckland; police judge, W. H. Odell; treasurer, James Clayton; treasurer of the board of education, R. F. Typer; justices of the peace, George Crummiack and John W. Brown; constables, L. P. Aber and Parker Corbin; councilmen—First ward W. O. Morrison; second ward, George Spencer; third ward, F. B. Caldwell; fourth ward, F. B. Schuster and S. H. Moss; members of the board of education, J. W. Thompson, S. J. Shaw, D. Turner, Charles Allison and Charles E. Hedges. C. W. Murphy was chosen for city clerk; attorney, D. A. Banta; marshal, J. W. Dawson; street commissioner, J. T. Airheart. G. W. Poole resigned as a member of the council and at a special election held April 25, .....

.....was elected to take his place. In July of this year C. W. Murphy resigned as clerk and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Will E. Stoke.

In 1888, at the spring election, the following were chosen to fill the city offices: Councilmen, W. E. Harper, C. L. Moses, G. N. Moses, J. B. Daniels; school board, A. C. Schermerhorn, C. F. Culver, J. C. Gwinn, W. W. Culver.

It was during the administration of these officers that the first city water works system was installed, a franchise being granted to the Great Bend Water Supply Company. The franchise was to run for twenty-one years. The city voted aid for the Chicago, Kansas & Western railroad Company in the sum of \$15,000. The road extended from Great Bend to Scott City and is now a branch of the Santa

Fe Railroad Company. In November of this year Charles Chamberlain was elected councilman to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of J. B. Daniels.

In 1890 the city election resulted in the following being chosen to look after the affairs of the city: Councilmen, John Taylor, C. L. Moses, W. P. Coles and M. Gilmore. The board of education was composed of A. C. Schermerhorn, A. J. Buckland, A. H. Connett and Fred Vollmer.

In 1891 the city offices were occupied by A. Laidlaw, mayor; Parker Corbin, police judge; O. J. Richards, G. L. Chapman, treasurer of the board of education; John F. Lewis and James Clayton, justices of the peace; J. W. Dawson and L. P. Aber, constables. The council was composed of John Langham, J. B. Hannum, Wm. Kelley, W. W. Culver and the long term members elected at the election of 1890. The board of education was made up of C. F. Dif-



First Seven Sheriffs of Barton County

fenbacher, Charles E. Dodge, S. J. Day and Wm. T. Frey. R. A. Charles was clerk; G. W. Nimocks, attorney; W. W. Winstead, marshal and street commissioner.

The election of 1892 resulted in the following being elected: Wm. Friend, R. C. Bailey, G. H. Hulme and W. H. Swift, councilmen; A. C. Schermerhorn, A. J. Buckland, D. C. Lase and W. H. Keeney, members of the Board of education; R. A. Charles, clerk; G. W. Nimocks, attorney and R. T. Ewalt, marshal. In 1893 E. W. Moses was elected mayor; C. M. Smith, police judge and O. J. Richards, treasurer; C. L. Hobart, clerk; J. W. Clarke, attorney and W. P. Cone, marshal. The council was composed of the holdovers and L. P. Aber, Geo. W. Moore, A. R. Moss and I. N. Woodward who were elected at the election in this year. The board of education was

In 1889 O. B. Wilson was elected mayor with the following councilmen: John Langham, W. B. Cornell, C. H. Hulme, C. B. Gillis and C. Q. Newcomb. The board of education was composed of C. F. Diefenbacher, G. W. Nimocks, J. K. Humphrey and William Torrey, with C. W. Murphy, treasurer. The following were appointed by the city council: W. H. Odell, police judge; James Clayton and John F. Lewis; justices of the peace, L. P. Aber and John W. Dawson, constables; O. J. Richmond, treasurer. The remainder of the city offices were filled with the same as during the previous year. At a special election in 1889 J. S. Dalziel was elected a member of the city council to take the place of W. E. Harper, who

In 1893 E. W. Moses was elected mayor; C. M. Smith, police judge and O. J. Richards, treasurer; C. L. Hobart, clerk; J. W. Clarke, attorney and W. P. Cone, marshal. The council was composed of the holdovers and L. P. Aber, Geo. W. Moore, A. R. Moss and I. N. Woodward who were elected at the election in this year. The board of education was

resigned and M. Gilmore was elected to take the place of Charles Chamberlain.

composed of Bruce Jones, Charles E. Dodge, W. H. Hillis and C. W. Murphy.

The succeeding council, the members of which were elected in 1894, together with the holdovers, was one that did a great deal of good for the town in the way of public improvement. Those elected at the election of 1894 were: John Hiss, Theodore Griffith, George Kincaid and I. N. Woodward.

The board of education elected at this election were: Albert Weiss, A. J. Buckland, D. G. Gibbons, Wm. Torrey, and Fred Vollmer. C. L. Hobart served this year as city clerk, James W. Clark as attorney and R. T. Ewalt as marshal. It was in September of this year that C. M. Smith resigned as police judge and J. W. Brown was elected to fill the vacancy.

In 1895 the following were elected and appointed to fill the offices in the city administration and they, together with those who already were holding seats in the city council, continued the work of building the town and

ton were chosen to serve on the board of education. George Crummack was appointed as clerk, F. V. Russell, attorney, and R. T. Ewalt succeeded himself as marshal.

In 1897 George N. Moses was re-elected mayor and the following councilmen were chosen: James E. Savage, John Dickson, I. N. Wilhide and Thomas Clayton.

The following members of the board of education were elected: Edwin Tyler, Wm. Osmond, D. C. Luse and E. P. Smith. This was the first election in the city after the new law made the offices of clerk, marshal and street commissioner elective ones, and George Crummack, R. T. Ewalt and W. A. Rush were elected to fill these offices, respectively. During this administration W. M. Gunnell was police judge; Louis Zutavern and J. W. Dawson were constables and G. L. Chapman was treasurer of the board of education.

In 1898 the following were elected and appointed: Peter Jordon, marshal; George



Court House in Winter

making it better in every way: G. N. Moses, mayor; W. M. Gunnell, police judge; J. Geo. Brinkman, treasurer; L. P. Aber, John Dickson, A. R. Moses and H. L. Shore, councilmen. The new members of the board of education elected were: J. H. Borders, Chas. E. Dodge, D. C. Luse and Fred Vollmer. During this administration G. L. Chapman was treasurer of the board of education; B. F. Ogle and J. H. Jennison were justices of the peace and J. W. Dawson and W. F. Cone served as constables, while F. V. Russell was attorney; C. L. Hobart, clerk and R. T. Ewalt, marshal.

On January 6, 1896, C. L. Hobart resigned as city clerk and the vacancy was filled by James A. Townsley, who received the appointment and it was during the same year that L. P. Aber and A. R. Moss resigned as members of the council and their places were not filled until the city election of the spring of 1896.

The election of 1896 resulted as follows: Henry J. Meyers, James E. Savage, Theodore Griffith, A. H. Schaeffer, George C. Kincaid and E. G. McNew were chosen for members of the council, and Pat Boughan, H. J. Kline, A. J. Buckland, Isaac Reynolds and D. J. New-



Great Bend in 1880

Crummack, clerk; B. S. Dale, street commissioner; Henry Meyers, M. Eppstein, R. A. Allison and H. L. Shore, councilmen; Pat Boughan, Martha L. Moore, A. R. Moss and W. R. Bunting members of the board of education, and F. V. Russell served as attorney. In January, 1899, Frank Brown was appointed clerk to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of George Crummack.

G. H. Hulme was elected mayor in 1899 with the following members of the council: C. G. Morrison, John Dickson, Thomas Clayton and I. N. Wilhide. J. F. Lewis, R. A. Charles, O. W. Dawson and I. N. Woodward were elected as members of the board of education. It was during this election that the new law went into effect which made the office of city attorney an elective one and F. V. Russell was chosen. This year found W. M. Gunnell as police judge; Louis Zutavern, treasurer; G. L. Chapman, treasurer of the board of education; B. F. Ogle and J. H. Jennison, justices



of the peace and W. H. Zutavern and W. H. Cone, constables. R. T. Ewalt again served as marshal and D. J. Newton, street commissioner.

In 1900 W. M. Gunnell died and B. F. Ogle was appointed to fill the office of police judge. In this year the following councilmen were elected: J. F. Durkin, L. P. Aber, A. H. Schaeffer, R. A. Allison and H. L. Shore. The following members of the board of education were elected: Ira H. Clark, F. M. Russell, H. E. Lindas and W. R. Bunting. During this administration P. Coopridge was marshal; F. E. Brown, clerk; William Osmond, attorney; W. P. Cone, street commissioner and R. C. Bailey, assessor.

In 1901, the law was changed and the offices of clerk, marshal, attorney, assessor and street commissioner became appointive ones. It was at the election of this year that L. P.

Fitts resigned as clerk and his place was taken by Wm. Woodward. In December, George Webber resigned from the office of marshal and his place was taken by F. D. Wilson. January 7, 1902, Mr. Woodward resigned from the office of clerk and W. P. Feder was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In 1902, the following were elected to fill the offices of the city: Councilmen: W. T. Kendall, H. J. Smith, B. S. Dale and Alfred Miller. The election resulted in the selection of Ira H. Clark, F. M. Russell, H. E. Lindas and W. R. Bunting to serve on the board of education. The following were appointed: W. P. Feder, clerk; F. V. Russell, attorney; Joseph Schaeffer, marshal; James A. Airheart, street commissioner.

At the election of 1903 Martin Weirauch was elected mayor with the following councilmen: L. C. Miller, J. G. Slentz, J. B. Rediger



Old Time Threshing Outfit

Aber was elected mayor; D. D. Page, police judge; Louis Zutavern, treasurer and G. L. Chapman, treasurer of the board of education. The following councilmen were chosen at this election: J. F. Durkin, L. J. Barker, Thomas Clayton, B. S. Dale and F. B. Newcomb. The members of the board of education elected were: John F. Lewis, R. A. Charles, O. W. Dawson and I. N. Woodward. M. B. Fitts was appointed city clerk; F. V. Russell, attorney; Frank D. Wilson, marshal; S. H. Luttrell, street commissioner. B. F. Ogle and J. H. Jennison were justices of the peace, while W. P. Cone and H. M. Wells served as constables. On June 3, F. D. Wilson resigned as marshal and his place was filled by the appointment of George E. Webber. S. H. Luttrell resigned as street commissioner and Frank Harvey was appointed to fill the vacancy. In July, M. B.

and F. B. Newcombe. For the board of education, J. F. Lewis, R. A. Charles, O. W. Dawson and I. N. Woodward were elected.

This administration made the following appointments: Police judge, D. D. Page; treasurer board of education, G. L. Chapman and Louis Zutavern continued as city treasurer.

In July of 1903, Mr. Weirauch resigned as mayor as did also Mr. Slentz as councilman. A special election was held July 28, 1904, which resulted in the election of E. W. Moses as mayor, and H. E. Dean to fill the vacancy in the council. Mayor Moses appointed F. D. Wilson, marshal. In October of that year Mr. Morrison died and his place as clerk was taken by W. E. Torrey.

The election of 1904 resulted in the choosing of the following councilmen: W. F. Honnen, N. J. Smith, Thomas Clayton and Alfred



Miller. For the board of education the following were elected: Ira H. Clark, F. M. Russell, H. E. Lindas and Wm. Rubart. W. E. Torrey was appointed clerk; Wm. Osmond, attorney; F. D. Wilson, marshal and E. Price, street commissioner.

In 1905, E. W. Moses was again elected as mayor of the city with the following councilmen: J. F. Durkin, H. E. Dean, C. S. Allison and W. R. Bunting. Louis Zutavern, treasurer; Ed. L. Chapman, treasurer of the board of education and for members of the board the following were elected: H. H. Whiteside, R. A. Charles, Porter Young and M. Simpson. The following appointments were made: W. P. Feder, clerk; Elrick C. Cole, attorney; F. D. Wilson, marshal and E. Price street commissioner.

At a meeting of the council February 3, 1905, after some discussion had been indulged in regarding the advisability of erecting a city building W. F. Honnen, N. Smith and Thomas

Sama, A. M. Collins, Lester Cox and Porter Young. H. A. Hall was elected police judge; Louis Zutavern, treasurer and Ed. L. Chapman, treasurer of the board of education; James Clayton and J. H. Jennison continued as justices of the peace with W. T. Bennister and W. B. King as constables. F. D. Wilson was appointed marshal; Frank Hitchcock, assistant marshal; E. Price, street commissioner and F. A. Moses, clerk.

In 1908, the following councilmen were elected: W. F. Honnen, N. Smith, E. H. Miller and W. C. Merritt. For the board of education: S. A. Newcombe, E. E. Morrison, J. E. McMullin and Wm. Rubart. The appointive offices were filled by the same gentlemen as were appointed in 1907.

In 1908 O. W. Dawson was elected mayor with the following councilmen: W. L. Smith, G. N. Moses, B. E. Giles and O. M. Frazier. The same appointive officers were chosen with the exception of F. D. Wilson, whose place was



City Hall, Great Bend

Clayton were appointed a building committee. Then began systematic work which resulted in the building of a fine brick and stone structure to be known as the Great Bend City Hall. It is located at the corner of Williams and Lakin streets and is ample for all needs of the city for years to come.

In 1906, the new city building was dedicated and thrown open for the use of the city offices. At the election held in the spring of this year the following were named: W. F. Honnen, N. Smith, C. N. Moses and E. H. Miller, councilmen; S. J. Newcombe, W. J. Sama, E. E. Morrison and D. C. Luse, members of the board of education. Elrick C. Cole continued as attorney; F. D. Wilson as marshal and E. Price as street commissioner.

In 1907, E. W. Moses was elected mayor with the following councilmen: Amos Johnson, G. N. Moses, B. E. Giles, W. R. Bunting. Members of the board of education: W. J.

taken by the appointment of Axel Wemmergren as marshal. Louis Zutavern was again elected treasurer and James Clayton police judge. Ed Chapman continued as treasurer of the school board, for which the following were elected: E. W. Seward, F. V. Russell, Porter Young and Lester Cox.

In 1910, the following councilmen were elected: W. F. Honnen, J. F. Lewis to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of W. L. Smith, E. W. Moses, W. E. Hayes and W. G. Merritt. For the school board: S. A. Newcombe, E. E. Morrison, J. E. McMullin and Louis Omer. The appointments were the same as the previous year.

It was during the administration of 1910 that steps were taken that finally resulted in letting a contract for a sewage system for the city. The contract was let December, 1910, and called for an expenditure of approximately \$100,000. The contract was awarded to

Bash & Gray of Joplin, Mo. It was found, after work had been begun that the original plans were too small to give the city a proper system, therefore, they were enlarged and the work on the sewer was finished in the south half of the town in the spring of 1912. It is expected that the entire city will be afforded sewer connections within the present year. The same council appropriated \$35,000 for a drainage system for the city. The work on this was done by home people under the supervision of a construction company.

In 1911, O. W. Dawson was re-elected mayor, and J. F. Lewis, G. N. Moses, D. C. Luse and S. P. Giddings were elected as members of the council. The appointments were the same as in 1910. The following were elected as the members of the board of education: Lester Cox, Porter Young and F. V. Russell. The

treasurer and justices of the peace were the same as in 1910.

In 1912, the following councilmen were elected: Louis Hans, R. A. Ewalt, W. P. Deal, L. P. Aber and Warren Baker was elected to fill the unexpired term of G. N. Moses. The appointments were the same with the exception of Clyde Allphin who took the place of E. C. Cole as city attorney. The offices of sewer and electric inspectors were created and Fred Hans, and F. K. Zutavern received the appointments.

The present administration of the city of Great Bend is a most aggressive one and is continuing the work so ably begun by their predecessors in making Great Bend an ideal home city with the best of religious and educational advantages.



A. A. Wemmergren,  
City Marshal



Frank Hitchcock,  
Ass't Marshal

## BUSINESS HISTORY OF GREAT BEND

**I**N 1872 H. H. Kidder realized the necessity for a store at Great Bend and to him belongs the honor of having established the first general store on the townsite. The store was located on the east side of the park square. Mr. Kidder soon became aware of the fact that although he had had the advantage of the merchants who came later, in selecting a location, the greater part of the town's business was done by stores on the west side of the square. Therefore, he moved his building to the corner now occupied by the First National bank.

A. S. Allen opened the first drug store in 1872 on the west side of the square and later moved into the first stone building to be erected in the town in 1876.

B. Negbaur from Leavenworth started in the clothing business in the spring of 1874. Later he added dry goods to his stock and had one of the best lines of goods to be found in the state at that time.

In 1874 J. W. and J. Lightbody started in the dry goods business on the west side of the square and their business grew in volume

A. W. Gray engaged in the hardware business in 1872 on the west side of the square in partnership with E. Wilcox of Hutchinson, and S. Lehman of Newton, Kan. In the spring of 1876, Mr. Gray erected a large brick building. Some idea of the volume of business done at that time can be gleaned from the fact that during the year 1878 Mr. Gray's total business amounted to \$130,000 for hardware and machinery.

In 1874 the firm of Burton & Johnson, which was composed of E. W. Burton of Lansing, Mich., and A. Johnson, bought the E. L. Morphy hardware stock and began business at the northeast corner of the park square. Later they moved to the west side of the square and occupied the T. L. Stone building which was later used by Moses Brothers.

In 1876, W. H. Odell and G. N. Moses bought Mr. Johnson's interest and in the spring of 1877 Mr. Odell sold out to Ed R. Moses when the name of the firm was changed to Burton, Moses & Brother.

In 1878, J. H. Hubbard erected a large stone building 25x140 feet with a basement,



Sam Maher, (on right) First Banker

until the building became too small to answer the purpose of the store. In 1878 a dissolution of the firm took place and J. W. Lightbody built a large store building a few doors to the north and, in connection with W. J. Wilson of Burlington, Kansas, and Saunders & Wilson of Newton, Kansas, put in one of the finest stocks of goods ever shown in Barton County. The store occupied two floors and was known as the "People's Store."

and at that time it was said to be the largest hardware store in the state of Kansas. The second floor of the building was used as a hall and was known as Union hall where all kinds of functions were held. The Hubbard store did a total business of \$120,000. In 1879 the store was damaged by fire to the extent of \$7,000.

None of the stores mentioned above are being operated now by their original owners,



about the only firm that remained in business that began in the 70s is the E. R. Moses Mercantile Company.

The first attempt to build a flour mill in the county was made by parties from Iowa in 1875 on the banks of the Walnut, near Dry creek. Various subscriptions in the way of a site, riparian rights, rock, etc., were given to the company. It was required that 30,000 bushels of wheat be loaned to the company by the farmers, they to take their pay in flour at stated intervals. A site was selected for the mill but the wheat loan did not come in and although work was begun on the mill it never was completed.

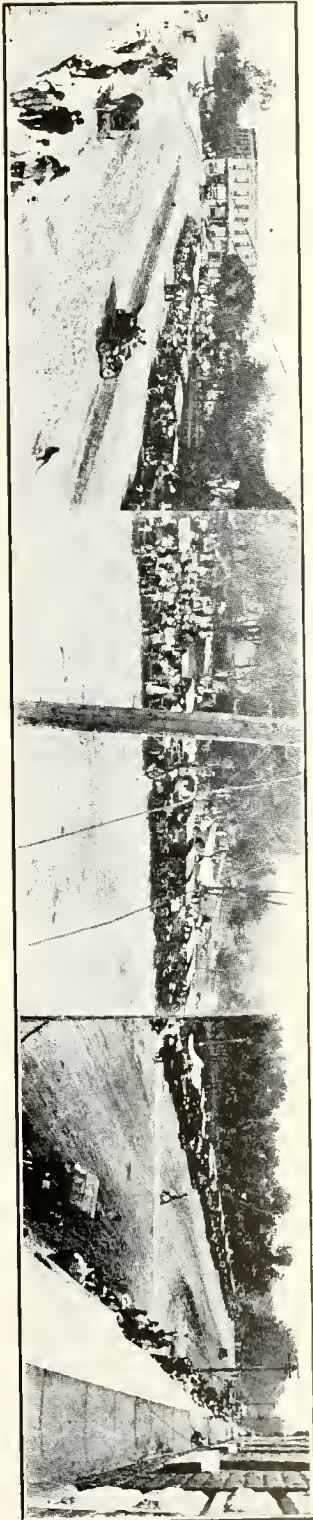
In the fall of 1875 a mill was built at Ellinwood by Musil & Steckel. It consisted of a single vertical burr and was capable of grinding about 100 bushels per day. During the same year the foundation for a mill was built by the firm of Brinkman & Sooy but was abandoned until 1878 when Brinkman's elevator was built on it.

In 1876 W. P. Clement came to Great Bend from Kalamazoo, Mich., and immediately took steps that resulted in a steam mill being erected near where the depot stands, and by August of that year the mill was ready to begin operations. It was completely overrun with work. The mill ran three sets of burrs and had a capacity of 350 bushels per day.

In 1877 Sooy & Brinkman built a large water power mill on Walnut Creek below the railroad bridge. It was nearly completed when a tornado demolished it. This tornado swept a path about six miles wide and came from the north. It did a great deal of damage from Carr Creek in Mitchell County to No. 3 school house west of Ellinwood. This was on August 16, 1877.

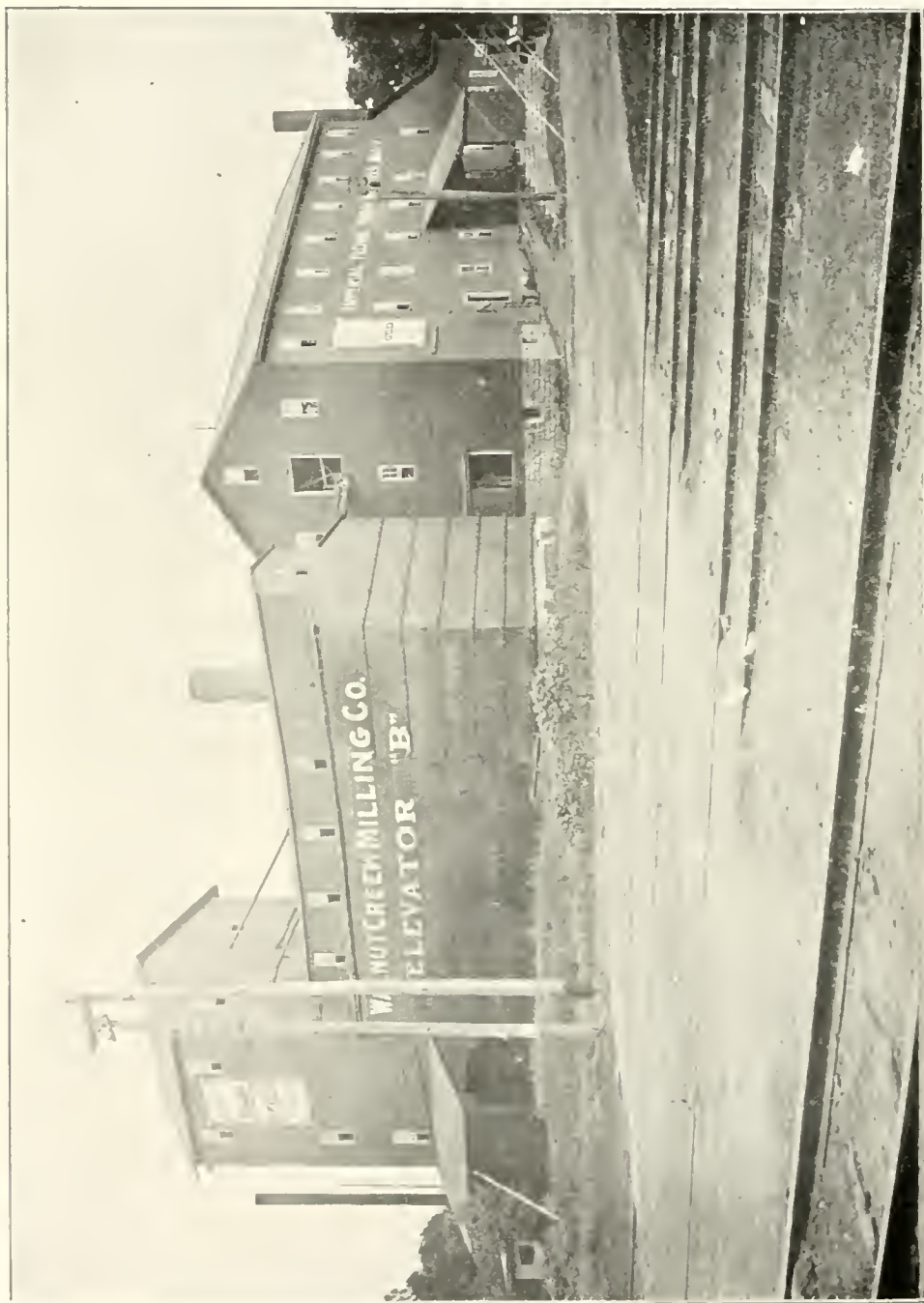
This misfortune did not deter Sooy & Brinkman and before long another mill was erected in a better and more secure manner and it began grinding in December, 1877. This mill was a four-burr and had the best appliances known for the manufacture of flour at that time.

It was soon found that there was insufficient water in the creek at times to keep the mill in operation, but the firm with characteristic enterprise, built a race at a point a mile and a half up the Arkansas river in order to get an additional supply of water. The fall from that point was ten feet in addition to that already attained on the Walnut, and during the high water in the Arkansas the plan worked nicely. When the water fell in the Arkansas, as frequently happened, the head of the race would become filled with quicksand from the bed of the river. After various experiments that had for their object the remedying of this condition the business was finally abandoned and the mill was moved from its site to a point just south of the railroad tracks and it is now one of the biggest and best mills in the state of Kansas and is



Street Scene in Great Bend on Circus Day, 1910





Walnut Creek Mill

operated by the Walnut Creek Milling Company.

During the years from 1872 to 1880 there were numerous manufacturing enterprises started in Great Bend but none of them survived any great length of time. These included a broom factory, cigar factory, etc.

In the early days of Great Bend it was the place of residence of a large number of cattlemen who grazed their herds in the valleys of the Ninnescah, Chickasaw and Medicine Lodge rivers. The cattle business seemed to thrive at times when farming life was very discouraging on account of droughts, grasshoppers, wind and other undesirable conditions. The first cattle in the country were from Texas and it was a peculiar fact that high bred stock, natives of northern climates could not live in the vicinity of Texas herds without contracting a fever that oftentimes proved fatal. However, if the native cattle withstood the first year's contact they were immune there-

after. The best success in the cattle business was achieved by crossing Texas stock with northern cattle.

An effort was made in the early 70s to establish herds of sheep in the county, but all that were brought here seemed to be unable to become acclimated and the industry never thrived as did the cattle business.

The first to attempt to raise thoroughbred stock in the county was C. Q. Newcombe whose farm was known as Bloomingdale Park and was located in Cheyenne township. He came to the county in 1876 and engaged in breeding fine cattle and horses. His horses were of the Messenger and Black Hawk stock. He had one brood mare, known as Nellie Seeley, that had a record of 2:30 when she was 10 years old. His cattle were of the best shorthorn stock. He was also a breeder of Berkshire and Suffolk pigs many of which he imported.

## BUILDING THE COURT HOUSE

A PETITION signed by E. L. Morphy and fifty-one others was presented to the board of county commissioners on September 2, 1872, asking for an election to be called for the purpose of issuing bonds to the amount of \$25,000 for the building of a court house and jail.

On October 8, a special election was held at which the bonds were voted on and resulted as follows:

| Township—        | For. | Against. | Total. |
|------------------|------|----------|--------|
| Lakin .....      | 1    | 32       | 33     |
| Great Bend ..... | 156  | 1        | 157    |
| Buffalo .....    | 5    | 3        | 8      |
|                  | —    | —        | —      |
| Total .....      | 162  | 36       | 198    |

On March 26, 1873, a contract was made with John McDonald of Emporia to build the court house for \$24,200 in bonds of the county, the court house to be completed during that year, according to the plans and specifications on file with the clerk. Bonds in the sum of \$50,000 were given by McDonald for the faithful performance of his part of the contract, W. T. Soden and P. B. Plumb being sureties.

In April the A. T. & S. F. railway got out an injunction restraining the issuing of the bonds for the building of the court house and certain bridges. A. A. Hurd was employed by the defense. The matter was finally adjusted, the bonds issued and the necessary taxes were paid by the railroad company.

In May, 1873, John H. Taylor was appointed to superintend the work of construction on the court house building, and at the close of December, 1873, the building was not completed according to contract and McDonald had stopped work after drawing all the money that was due him. Early in 1874, the board of county commissioners took possession of the building and materials on hand in the name of the county. The work was finished and the cost of the part undone when McDonald quit was assessed against his bondsmen and suit begun to collect the amount. This matter hung fire in the courts for some time and was finally settled in November, 1879, by McDonald's bondsmen, Plumb and Soden paying the county the sum of \$2,000, and paying all expenses of the litigation.

## ST. ROSE HOSPITAL

**I**N 1893, after having lived in Great Bend for about a year, during which time the preliminary work was done, representatives of the Dominican Sisters established St. Rose hospital. No public undertaking in the city of Great Bend ever met with a more hearty response from the citizens than did the work of soliciting aid for the establishment of the hospital. On June 9, 1902, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Great Bend Commercial Club:

"Great Bend Commercial Club, Great Bend, Kansas, June 9, 1902.—To the Rev. Mother Superior of the Nuns of the Third Order of St. Dominic, Great Bend, Kansas:

"I have the honor to transmit to you the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the members of the Great Bend

ing need of such an institution in this vicinity;

"That there is a large and well-populated district tributary to Great Bend which is entirely without modern facilities where the sick and afflicted may receive proper hospital care, treatment and nursing;

"That it is a matter of common knowledge that patients from this large expanse of country are continually traveling to and from the cities east of us in search of expert surgical relief and treatment;

"That it is equally well known that large numbers of people are financially unable to meet the extraordinary expense of such a trip, or are physically unequal to the fatigue of the journey, and hence are compelled to remain at home, there to languish, suffer and die from lack of expert care, treatment and nursing, such as can be procured



Ambulance For St. Rose Hospital

Commercial Club at their regular meeting on this date, to wit:

"Whereas, It has come to the knowledge of the general public that the Rev. Mother Superior and the Rev. Sisters of the Nuns of the Third Order of St. Dominic, now residing in our midst, contemplate, or are considering the expediency of establishing and maintaining a general hospital in our city; Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, By the Great Bend Commercial Club, that the movement in question is one which commands our hearty support and most cordial endorsement;

"That we have long recognized the press-

only in connection with a modern and well-equipped hospital;

"That neighboring cities and villages have frequently signified their willingness to co-operate with this city, and to lend their moral and financial support to the promotion of such an institution;

"That in our opinion the movement is a worthy one in every respect, and will command the instant and profound respect and sympathy of all classes of our people;

"That we confidently believe that a hospital here under the auspices of these Reverend Sisters would receive a cordial and generous patronage from the entire western half of





St. Rose Hospital



Kansas and from portions of Eastern Colorado;

"That our railway connections are good, our climate unsurpassed, all local conditions most favorable, and the time most opportune;

"In consequence of all of which, we believe the proposition would be a pronounced success from the beginning, and that it would be not only a benediction to the general public but a source of revenue to the founders;

"Wherefore, We bid these Reverend Sisters God-speed in their great and glorious work and give them strong assurances of our cordial sympathy and good will."

"Most respectfully submitted.

"F. V. RUSSELL, Sec."

The only institution of its kind in Central Kansas. Is a commodious, substantial, fire-proof, brick structure, fully equipped for effi-

and second floors. They are elegantly furnished by various business firms of the city and every effort was made to impart a home-like atmosphere and eliminate the ordinary features of hospital life.

There are several semi-private rooms for patients of more moderate means.

The men's ward is on the first floor and will accommodate eight patients. It is large, well lighted and ventilated. The same nursing and attention will be given as to those occupying private rooms.

The women's ward is on the second floor and is neatly furnished.

The drug room has an ample stock so that all prescriptions can be filled at the hospital.

The hospital is equipped with a Morton-Wimshurst-Holtz machine of the latest design; a new Scheidel sixteen-inch coil X-Ray, capa-



Interior View of St. Rose Hospital

cient hospital service for forty patients.

Situated on the crest of a high ridge of land on West Broadway, the hospital is surrounded with beautiful lawns, shade trees, flower beds, and all that can add to its natural beauty.

The building has two stories and a basement. The arrangement is such that sunlight enters every room. Steam heat, electric lights, elevator and all modern conveniences have been installed. A separate building for the laundry work of the hospital is located on the grounds. A brick addition was constructed and equipped in 1910 at a cost of \$25,000.

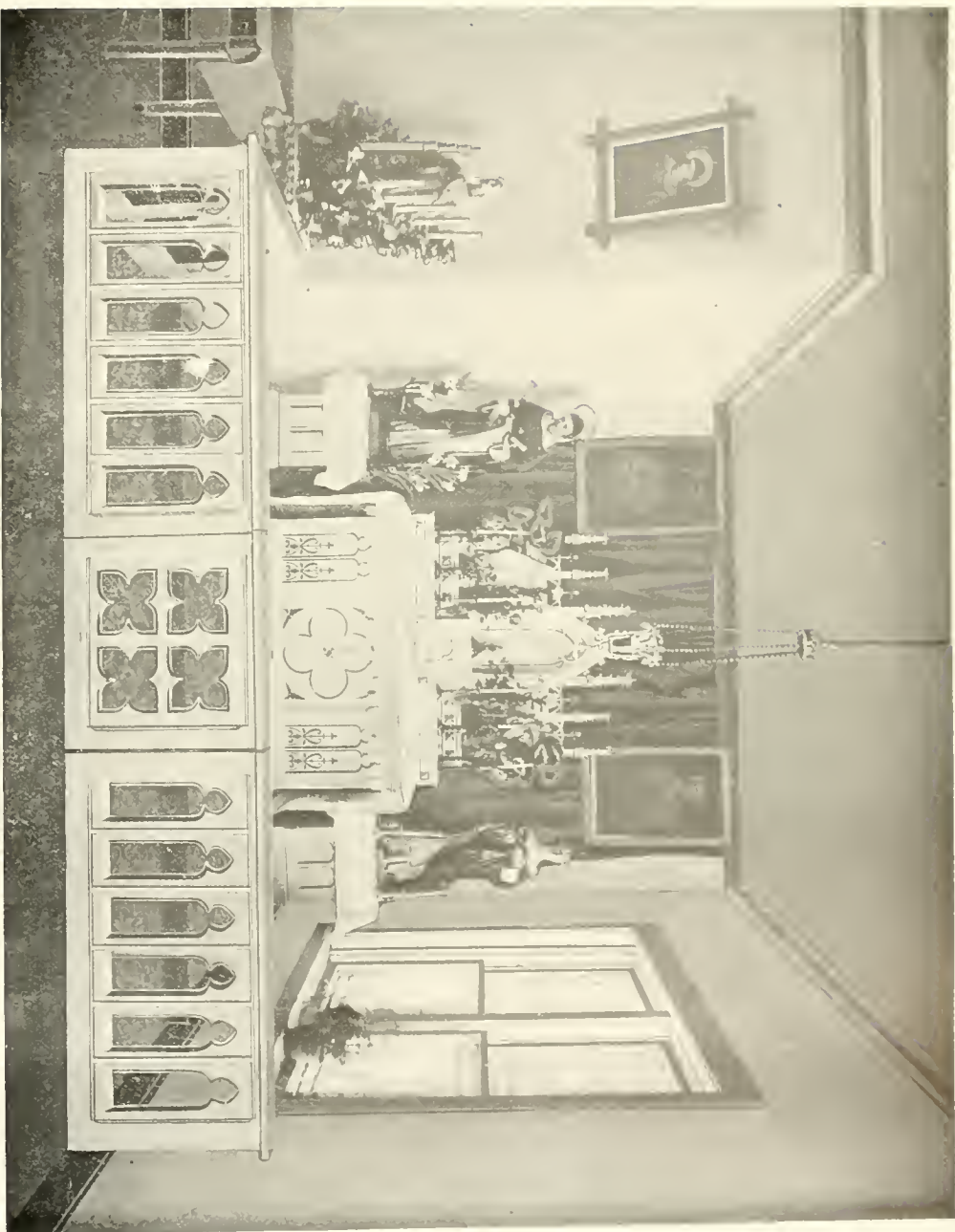
Both private rooms and wards are available. Private rooms are located on the first

ble of taking skiagraphs through the body when desired.

An electrical vibrator is used for patients unable to leave their apartments. An electric bath cabinet and hot air apparatus have been installed especially adapted for the treatment of chronic arthritis and rheumatic cases.

On the first floor is located a room equipped for free dispensary work. There are many of the poorer class who take advantage of this and receive both medical and surgical service.

The operating rooms are located on the second floor; the main operating room is used only for non-infective cases and was so designed as to afford plenty of light and be readi-



Chapel at St. Rose Hospital

ly fumigated. The second operating room is for all infective cases.

The sterilizing room adjoins the operating room and has all modern equipments.

Most careful attention is paid to the dietary. Expense, time and attention are not spared in providing the best.

The hospital has two fine ambulances for the service of its patients which can be called at any hour.

They are all Sisters of St. Dominic and of long hospital experience. Special nurses will be provided for patients desiring services of same at additional rates.

### ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Another Catholic institution that was established in 1901 was St. Mary's Academy. This academy or school was established by the Dominican Sisters, they being of the same order as

closed for a time after which it was and is now being used as a school where Sisters are trained for school and hospital work. It is the intention of the Sisters to again take up the



St. Mary's Academy, Formerly Central Normal College, Great Bend

those who later established the St. Rose Hospital. The school was located in the building on West Broadway formerly used by the Central Normal College and was built in 1880. The school was operated until 1909 when it

school work within the near future. During the time that the school was operated it had a good attendance and was well conducted along modern ideas of education.

## BARTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**T**HE history of the public schools of Barton County since the first district was organized in '72 has been one of steady progress and consistent improvements. New buildings have been added and additional teachers employed as fast as demands made it necessary. The first school district was established June 3, 1872, by A. Howson, superintendent of public instruction of Ellsworth County, Kansas, and included the following territory. Sections 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34 in township 19, south of range 13 west. It was known as District Number 1, and included the City of Great Bend. The first meeting of the board which consisted of J. C. Martin, G. W. Nimocks and D. N. Heizer, was held in the store of John Hubbard in Great Bend June 15, 1872. It may be of interest to some to

## GREAT BEND SCHOOLS.

The increased attendance during the past year is evidence of the increasing population of the county. So crowded has the two grade buildings become that it has been necessary to open three rooms for grade purposes in the high school building and next year additional room will need to be provided for grade purposes. At the present rate of increase it is only a matter of a very short time before a new ward building must be built to accommodate the children of the city. The course of study followed is the one used in most of the first and second class cities of our state.

## HIGH SCHOOL.

The Great Bend High School is organized under the Barnes High School Law and therefore belongs to the whole county. The school



New High School, Great Bend

know that the teachers in those days were paid very small salaries as can be seen from the following. The teachers in the first district were James Bickerdyke, \$45 per month; Mrs. H. Ingersoll, \$20 per month; J. A. McClellan, \$75 per month; Charles Dodge, \$23 per month; Miss C. Storrey, \$50 per month; Miss Hattie Hartman, \$50 per month; Miss C. Bacon, \$59 per month and Andrew McKinney, \$40 per month. Soon after the establishment of the first district other districts were added until now there are in the county 104 districts, with 150 teachers and 107 buildings. The first superintendent of public instruction was A. C. Moses and the present incumbent of the office is Jennie B. Momyer. The schools of Barton county are among the best in the state of Kansas and in 1912 the attendance is the largest in the history of the county, it being slightly over 1,000 in Great Bend alone.

is well equipped with a splendid modern building, apparatus of latest kind in every department. This year a faculty of nine members, including the superintendent, is necessary to take care of the increased enrollment, and the new departments which are being added.

The school enrolled in 1911 about 200 pupils from Barton County and adjoining counties. This is an increase of nearly forty per cent over the enrollment of the previous year. Prospects for a still larger enrollment are bright for the coming school year.

Some conception of the many lines of work offered in the high school may be obtained by briefly considering the various courses of study.

The college preparatory course is designated for those whose ambitions direct them to a college course. It includes Latin, Mathematics, English, History and Science. Those complet-



ing this course are admitted to the Freshman class of the Kansas University and the other colleges and universities of this and other states.

The Normal Training Course is arranged for those who intend to teach. This course includes about the same subjects as those found in the college preparatory course but includes besides Psychology, Methods and Management and a thorough review of most of the common branches. Persons completing this course and passing a state examination in eight subjects indicated above, are given a state certificate good for two years and at the end of that time renewable.

Young people who are contemplating teaching and teachers who wish to become better prepared for their work should make arrangements to take this course. It is possible to complete the Normal Training Course and at the same time complete work sufficient for college entrance.

The Business Course is composed of the regular commercial subjects, book-keeping, short-hand, typewriting, commercial arithmetic, commercial geography, and commercial law, similar to those found in the leading business colleges, and in addition this course includes a greater amount of academic work. A great many difficulties on account of immaturity found among eighth grade graduates who complete a course will be overcome by the time a good high school course is completed. Such a course gives one who enters business life an advantage that is worth securing. Knowledge is power, and the broader the culture the greater chance of success. If a business course without such training is good, a business course with such training is very good.

The Manual Training department which was established two years ago, and which has been in charge of experts during this time has proved very popular as well as profitable to the boys of the school.

No young man whatever his station in life finds the ability to use his hands in the production of some useful article detrimental to his success. All persons are not endowed with power to become proficient in classical or professional courses, hence the popular demand for courses which train for useful vocations along practical lines. The work done in this department has called forth much favorable comment on account of its high grade.

Tables, chairs, tabourets, pedestals and dozens of other useful articles suitable for any home have been made by the students. This work is carried by the pupils while doing regular high school work in English, Mathematics and Science.

A visit to this department would reveal a busy work shop or laboratory filled with busy contented boys, happy in the joy which comes from the conscious direction of muscular effort to the accomplishment of some useful end. No one can well deny that there is just as valuable kind of training coming from this effort as that which comes from the translation of a Latin sentence or the conjugation of a Greek verb. It is not the purpose to turn out finished workmen but young men with the power to direct the hands to execute what the mind constructs.

The coming year will see installed Domestic Science and Art for the girls. A room is being arranged with tables, sinks, cupboards, stoves and cooking utensils of all kinds. There under the direction of a competent instructor the young ladies of the school will be taught household economy. It is doubtful if a more useful or practical line of work can be found than this which teaches the future mothers of our state how to prepare food and care for the home.

The Domestic Art room will be fitted with sewing tables, chairs, machines and rockers. The work in sewing is just as essential as either Manual Training or Domestic Art. It may never be necessary for many young ladies to sew for themselves or others, but it certainly will ever be a source of satisfaction to know when a garment is made correctly and fitted accurately. It is believed these courses will prove very popular among the girls.

Another course for next year, which should reach practical needs in our county is agriculture. It is not the purpose of this study to do demonstrative work, but to teach in a practical way the science of agriculture. The course will be outlined by the state department and will include a thorough study of soil; its formation, kinds, properties, moisture holding power, methods of enriching and tillage; seeds; their structure, selection and planting; rotation of crops; principal crops, dairying, stock raising, etc.

This article should not close without calling attention to the school organization, which go to make up the school life as well as give a very useful training. These are the two library or rhetorical societies, the Y. M. C. A. and the chorus, the orchestra and the entertainment association. The latter conducts a splendid course of lectures and entertainments during the school year.

It is hoped the young people of Barton County will avail themselves of the opportunity to secure an education in this well organized and well equipped school.

## GREAT BEND CHURCHES

**G**REAT BEND is blessed with a large number of churches representing nearly all denominations of Christian faith. Their history has been printed before but their growth has been most gratifying to those who work for the cause of religion in this section of the country and is most interesting. The

history of these churches has been one of continuous struggle during the early days but all are now on a sound financial basis and have accomplished a great deal of good among the people and they add greatly to the desirability of Great Bend as a home city.

### First Congregational Church

In the spring of 1872 a Sunday school was organized in Great Bend which was the foundation for what is now the First Congregational Church, the same being organized August 10, 1872. But one of the original charter

gregation from one to eight years. Revs. Palmer, Prior, Bosworth, Carson, Schnacke, Sutherland, Brehm, and the present pastor, is Rev. Victor Lynch Greenwood, whose ministry began in 1912.



### First Congregational Church, Great Bend

members remains today in the person of Mrs. G. N. Moses, then Miss Ida Mitchell.

The Reverend Mr. Brundige was the first pastor, remaining three years, Rev. I. D. Phillips following for a period of four years. The following named pastors have served the con-

The Congregational church has always filled a large place in the community and now has one of the most beautiful and modern houses of worship to be found in this part of the state.

### St. John's Episcopal Church

It was in the late 70s that the Rt. Rev. T. H. Vail, the first Bishop of the Episcopal church in Kansas, visited Great Bend and baptized the children of some of the church families then living here. Among these pioneer members of the church are found the names of Poole, Grimes, Livingston, Shore, Manning, Ogle and Moss. These all at one time or another have done good work for the church, and of

these only Mrs. and Miss Poole are left to recall the early struggle of this Mission.

Several years after Bishop Vail's visit, his successor, Bishop Thomas, came to Great Bend and after looking over the field, arranged for services in the court house, which were held by the Rev. Dr. Beatty of Newton, and, afterward, by the Rev. Kersey Thomas of Larned. These occasional services, however, soon laps-

ed, but with the advent of the Rev. B. Hartley who gave regular services from Larned, things began to look up. The German-Methodist church was rented for services and the prospect seemed to be very encouraging. Then came, as the first resident pastor, the Rev. W. Richmond, who was followed by Archdeacon Watkins giving occasional services.

While the Archdeacon was in charge, the congregation purchased the church, and now having a building of their own, church work began to take on a more roseate hue. The Rev.

L. G. Morony now came as pastor, and was followed by the Rev. Geo. Belsey, and the Rev. A. H. W. Anderson, all of whom did good work for the Master. Then came days of decline, the church, losing her strength chiefly by removals and the pastors who have come in the later days have been able to do scarcely more than minister to the few faithful ones left. These have been the Rev. H. M. Green, the Rev. J. C. Anderson and B. T. Bensted.

The present pastor of the church is Rev. Robert Francis Hill who is doing good work.

### Methodist Episcopal Church

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in March, 1873, by Rev. A. Hartman, who remained for some time as the first pastor. The Rev. John McQuiston was presiding elder.

bought and the present church and a parsonage built. The church was dedicated January 16, 1887, by Rev. J. C. Hall, assisted by Rev. Enyart, the pastor. The present membership



M. E. Church, Great Bend

The first church building was erected in the fall of 1877, and dedicated on January 20, 1878, by Bishop Bowman. This church was sold in 1887, a new site, the present one was

of the church is 500, and all matters in connection with the congregation are in excellent condition. The present pastor is Rev. H. J. Cockerill.

### Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Great Bend, Kansas, was organized April 2, 1887. It started with sixteen members, viz: Fred J. Lewis and wife, S. M. Smith and wife, Lucinda Tucker, Mrs. C. J. Crilly, J. E. Patton and wife, J. A. Miller and wife, David Mathewson, wife and daughter, C. C. Lewis, Morgan Caraway and Mrs. M. E. Fouch. Rev. N. G. Collins of Dodge City, presided over the meeting at which the organization was effected. What are known as the New Hampshire Articles of Faith were read, and it was agreed that they fairly expressed the Scriptural views of those entering the new church.

The following were the first officers: Deacons, Fred J. Lewis and David Mathewson; clerk, Morgan Caraway; treasurer, David Mathewson; S. S. Supt. J. E. Patton; trustees,

S. M. Smith, J. A. Miller, M. Caraway, J. E. Patton and C. C. Lewis. The young church seems to have gone without a pastor until October, 1887, when Rev. G. E. Burdick entered upon the work, which, however, he soon resigned.

The present pastor, Rev. E. H. H. Tubbs, is a native of Pulaski County, Ky. In his young manhood he was a school teacher in his native county. His first pastorate was with his home church in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., after which he was pastor at Browntown, Ind., four years, Free-landville, Ind., four years and Alfordsville, Ind. seven years. Then he came to Stafford, Kansas, for three and one-half years. This last work he resigned to accept the call to this field.

### Presbyterian Church

Monday, May 5, 1885, by previous appointments, Revs. J. C. McEnroy, D. Kingroy and J. H. Ralston, representing the Home Missionary Committee or Larned Presbytery, convened in the M. E. church of Great Bend, for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian church if the way appeared clear. Rev. D.

Kingroy preached a sermon on "Church Order." The way being clear an organization was effected, eleven members being received. Present membership 148. Present value of the church building and manse, \$15,000. Rev. Wm. Westwood is the present pastor.

### Christian Church

The Christian Church of this city was organized on October 14, 1899 by Rev. J. M. McConnell, who was the first pastor, and under whose supervision the present church building was erected in the spring of 1900. The pres-

ent pastor is Rev. B. E. Parker. The membership of the congregation is 150, and the Sunday school has an enrollment of 120. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor has a membership of 65.

### Roman Catholic Church

St. Rosa of Lima Church was built in 1878 under the direction of Father Felix P. Swenbergh and Father Ferdinand Wolf. For many years before that the community and Fort, while there was nothing here but Indians, were visited by Catholic Missionaries. Father Wolf held services here while he was stationed at Dodge City, until October 23, 1881, when Father Schurtz succeeded him. He was located at Ellinwood, as was also Father Epp, who followed him. In 1885 Father Disselkamp took charge and held until 1888. Under his pastorate the church building was moved to the location it has at this time. He also made some

extensive improvements. His successor was Father Hartman, and he was succeeded in 1888 by Father Kelley, who was the first resident priest. During his administration the bells were purchased. He was succeeded in 1893 by Father Browne, who was here during the hardest years that any pastor of the congregation has ever seen. His successor was Father Podgorseck, and under his term the parish house was built. In 1901 he was succeeded by Father Weirisma, who in 1901, was succeeded by Father Schultz then who was in turn succeeded by Father Hermanns. Father Hull is the present pastor.



### German Lutheran Church

Regular Lutheran preaching was begun in the city of Great Bend in September, 1905, services being conducted by the neighboring ministers alternately, first in the old school

still very small in numbers had the courage to do what seemed necessary for the progress of Lutheranism in this city, i.e., to build a church house of their own. The new struc-



### Lutheran Trinity Church

building and later in the present baptist church. A congregation was organized August 30, 1908, professing the doctrines as taught by the Evangelical Lutheran Missouri Synod. In the year 1910 the congregation,

ture shown in the picture was dedicated July 31, 1910, and bears the name Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church. Two weeks after the dedication the first permanent pastor, R. Grabner, was installed into office.

### The Colored Churches

Great Bend has two colored congregations, the Baptists and Methodists. Both have handsome church edifices and have grown greatly since their establishment. The Baptists organ-

ized about thirty years ago and the Methodists some time later. Rev. Raimy is pastor of the Baptist. Rev. Greenlee is the pastor of the Methodist church.

## A CAKE THAT BROUGHT \$677.50

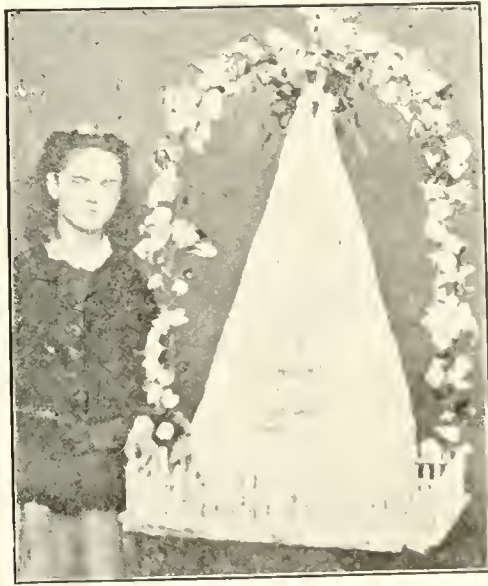
**F**EBRUARY 25, 1874, the Odd Fellows lodge of Great Bend gave a grand ball which was the event of the season, and on this occasion there was a cake given to the one who received the largest number of votes at 25 cents per vote. According to old timers who attended the ball it was a swell affair. The following taken from the Barton County Progress, a newspaper published in Great Bend at that time, will give an idea of the event. We also print a likeness of the cake and Miss Typer, the winner. Miss Typer is now Mrs. Crocker of Hoisington:

"Of course it was an Odd Fellows ball and if the secret meetings of this order are as

vision had been made for all who were there.

"After supper Judge Martin, at the solicitation of some of his friends, consented to auction off a big cake that had been made by Mrs. Faussett, and presented to the lodge. The cake was a handsome pyramid of the sweetest compounds, weighing about 60 pounds and highly ornamented with symbols of the Odd Fellows lodge.

"The cake was offered to be voted for at 25 cents per vote, and was to be given to the most popular young lady in the hall. The voting commenced with four votes for Miss Hattie Wells. Miss Mollie Typer received twenty votes, and somebody just in fun dug up six



Miss Typer, Now Mrs. Crocker of Hoisington

pleasant and harmonizing as was the ball of last night the order is truly symbolical of the letters F. L. T. The music was excellent and the Great Bend string band's repertoire would do credit to a musical organization of the largest cities.

Dancing commenced about 8 o'clock and continued until 5 in the morning. The ladies' toilets were magnificent. A great many of Great Bend's women were dressed richly and handsomely and exceedingly good taste was displayed. We venture to say that the toilets displayed at the gubernatorial ball at Topeka recently were not superior to those seen at the ball last night. The dancing was in the court-room at the court house while the refreshments were served in the clerk's office. The refreshments were delicious and ample pro-

bits for three votes for Pollie Parkins, there being no such person in the assemblage. At the end of the first ten minutes the vote stood: Miss Typer, 180; Miss Wells, 170. By this time Mr. Markwort was championing the cause of Miss Typer while G. L. Brinkman was leading the Wells forces in the battle of ballots. After twenty minutes the vote stood: Miss Typer, 500; Miss Wells, 490. Then the voting was fast and furious and, finally after 2,700 votes had been cast, the auctioneer announced that Miss Wells and Miss Typer were tied with 1,350 votes each. Then there were ten votes added to Miss Typer's list and as the other side made no more offers she was announced the winner and the lodge was richer by \$677.50."

## FIRST NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION

(From Great Bend Tribune, January 29, 1909.)

A couple of weeks ago we received a letter from Dr. Lightfoot. The letter is published first, and is then followed by considerable matter from the Tribune of January 3, 1880, concerning the reception of that date, and other New Year's news:

Mr. Will Townsley, Editor Tribune, Great Bend, Kansas. Dear Sir: In reading your account of the New Year festivities in Great Bend, my mind went back to the beginning of the custom, and I thought it might be of interest to your readers to hear of it.

Eighteen-eighty being leap year I suggested to some of the then young men of the town, that on New Year's Day we entertain the ladies. At that time I had an office over Allen's drug store. Cal Weaver and E. W. Moses had a nicely furnished room near mine, and after some consultation we decided to use these rooms for our purpose—my office being used as a kitchen, presided over by Mose Wells, an old time darkey and the other room was converted into a reception room, by removing the bed and instituting a dining table in its place.

The reception party of five consisted of Cal Weaver, E. W. Moses, Will Moses, Ora Dodge and myself. I was appointed to receive at the door, Ora Dodge and E. W. Moses to be in charge of the refreshment table, and Will and Cal took a hand where it would do the most good. Quite a number of ladies, married and single, called, also some of the gentlemen. Prominent among the young girls who are still living in Great Bend were Miss Jennie Pursell, now Mrs. Castle and Miss Annie Wood, now Mrs. E. W. Moses.

The next year many of the ladies received calls, and D. N. Heizer originated the idea of a reception in the evening, he inviting those who received and made calls to his home, then the little cottage on the east side next to the Diffenbacher residence. This custom continued for some years, but even when the calling was dropped the evening reception has continued until the present day. It has been a great element in the social life of Great Bend and I hope it may long continue. Of the original five who received in 1880 all are living but Cal Weaver. I am,

Very respectfully yours,

DR. FRANK LIGHTFOOT,

Excelsior Springs, Mo., 1-12-'09

In his letter Dr. Lightfoot says, the custom of having a ball in the evening originated the next year with D. N. Heizer. D. N. was undoubtedly instrumental in promoting the matter, but that same night of which the doctor writes, a big Leap Year ball was given at which the gentlemen were the guests of the ladies. Many of the couples noted in the write-up of the affair were afterwards married to each other, but we expect the ladies will deny that Leap Year had anything to do with the matter.

The write-up of the ball from the Tribune of January 3, 1880, is as follows:

"The Leap Year ball was the most pleasant one of the season. It was gotten up by the ladies who took advantage of the fourth year wherein they enjoyed certain privileges not accorded them often. They managed the affair in a business way, selected their company to suit themselves and for once in their lives—if never before—had things all their way. We give the names of all who took part in the exercises, and will say now, should there be any omission, we hope the ladies will not pounce on us, for it was with much labor and exceeding great embarrassment that we procured the list, in so large an assembly. It is possible that some may have escaped our observation: Mary Birdsell and James Hincheliff, Mrs. Sooy and husband, and E. W. Johnson, Mrs. E. R. Moses, husband and M. B. Fitts, Miss Zachary and John Cegan, Jennie Pursell, Ed Dunaway and Mr. Losecamp, Ada Birdsell and W. Kelly, Mrs. Frank Wilson and W. W. Kearney, Bessie Johnson and Frank Wilson, May Kelly and Dr. Castle, Mrs. Hulme and Geo. Kellar and Mr. Hulme, Emma Mitchell and Will Webster, Lizzie Dodge and Frank Pepper, Luella Miller and Will Stoke, Nettie Dick and Mr. Osmond, Mrs. Long and D. N. Heizer, Mrs. Heizer and Fred Long, Mrs. Wells and J. M. Fugate, Mrs. Doty and Wm. Maher, Lillie Arnold and G. W. Wells, Mrs. J. E. Lighthody and husband, Mrs. Evans and James Sweet, Mrs. Sweet and G. A. Evans, Mrs. S. B. Stokly and husband, Flo Diffenbacher and Will Dunaway, Ella Brown and John Taylor, Mrs. J. B. Mulks and husband, Mrs. Chaffee and Mrs. A. S. Allen and husband, Jennie Flint and Dr. Gebhart, Grace Buckland and Will Moses, Laura Lewis and W. M. James, Belle Brown and Ora Dodge, Mrs. Chauman and W. W. Winstead, Mrs. Winstead and E. L. Chauman, Anna Wood and Ed Moses, Mrs. Kidder and husband, Stella Eastey and Fred Zutavern, Mrs. Rowell and husband, Maggie Dodge and George E. Mitchell, Mrs. G. L. Brinkman and Dr. Bain, Hattie Wells and G. L. Brinkman, Jessie Prescott and Clarence Birdsell, Mrs. Pickering and husband.

The dance lasted until five o'clock the next morning and the large hall was densely crowded. Supper was served at the Tyler house. The managers of the ball will have enough left for new spring bonnets and other absolute necessities. The ladies established a rule forbidding any gentleman from leaving the hall until the close of the ball. Numerous efforts were made during the evening to escape on one pretext or another, but George Moses being doorkeeper, it was a waste of time to plead for 'breath of air.' The ladies set an example for the men in the expeditious manner in which they filled their engagement cards which occupied a remarkably short interval.

The result of it was that those who came late were unable to find partners.

In the Tribune of January 3, 1880, we find the following notices: Cal Weaver, Ed and Will Moses, Dr. Lightfoot and Ora Dodge kept open house Thursday and were visited by all the ladies who made calls. They received in the rooms of these gentlemen in Allen's building up stairs and were elegantly fitted up with a beautiful supply of good things. They were the happiest set of mortals on earth and only regret that they had but one short day in three hundred and sixty-five to throw themselves away on ladies.

The following ladies honored the Tribune sanetum with their presence Thursday: Jessie Prescott, Stella Eastey, Mary Birdsall, Ada Birdsall, Jennie Flint, Emma Mitchell, Mrs. E. R. Moses, Mrs. G. L. Brinkman, Jessie Miller, Belle Zachary, Mrs. Soy, Mrs. Long, Miss Dick, Jennie Pursell, Ella Brown, Belle Brown, Mrs. John Lightbody, Mrs. A. S. Allen and Mrs. A. C. Moses.

We tender our thanks to the above ladies who won us with a call. We appreciate the compliment greatly, enjoyed their visits and wish them all a happy new year, and fondly hope that each succeeding day of 1880 to its close may be as happy a one to them as the first one was to us.

Signed, Wm. Moses, Cal Weaver, Dr. Lightfoot, Ora Dodge and Ed Moses.

But though these dashing young blades were the ones to follow the idea of a reception, the idea spread, as witness the full wing notice in the paper of the week before, and which was largely as a joke on the part of the editor of the Tribune: "January the first is the beginning of the Leap Year and we are authorized to announce that the following young gentle-

men will keep open house for the accommodation of such young ladies as may feel inclined to assert the privileges which the new year accords to them: Wm. Naher, assisted by his brother, Stanley, and George Stovall; E. W. Johnson assisted by Ed and Will Dunaway, Cal Weaver, assisted by Drs. Gebhart and Lightfoot; W. M. James, assisted by M. E. Skinner and Henry Moore; Frank Eastey, (if he don't go to the country,) assisted by Ora Dodge and Lynn Moses; Ed Moses, assisted by his brothers Will and Cash; (N. B.—Owing to the peculiar circumstances of which the public seem better posted than he does, Clayt will not take an active part in this business.) Clarence Birdsall, assisted by James Hinchcliff and John Cogan; Joe Howard, assisted by Ran Goit—no providential hindrance—and Leo D. Brougher; Will Stoke, assisted by James Clayton and Elrick C. Cole; (this is regarded as a sure thing all around.) Joey D. Fugate, assisted by the following kids: Ned Goit, Albert Kergs and Sammy Keifer; Wm. Webster, assisted by Wm. Kelly and Frank Peffer; Henry Moss, assisted by John, Al and Art; ladies over thirty ruled out; Wm. Osmond, assisted by Tom Clayton and Charley Carney; girls under fifteen strictly. W. W. Carney, no discrimination as to age but brunettes preferred; Wm. Lasecamp, assisted by Wm. Teed and others. No reserved seats.

And then the Tribune of January 3, 1880, backed down. Witness this: We owe the ladies an apology for misleading them in our last issue by giving the names of young men who would receive on New Year's day. They left their names for publication as presented, but from some cause or other very few adhered to their promises. But at the same time the ladies are indebted to us for the few who did receive as they felt in duty bound to follow the program after their announcements were published.



## A BANQUET IN HONOR OF CASSIUS M. MOSES

**I**N 1899 the City of Great Bend welcomed Cash Moses back from the Spanish war with a big banquet, the following account of which is taken from a newspaper of that time. The banquet was held in October and was attended by Great Bend's leading citizens:

"A reception was given to Colonel Moses Tuesday at the Woodman lodge room. Upwards of 150 people were in attendance. The evening was spent in a free and easy way, the guests being given the liberty to enjoy themselves in any way they saw fit. The Colored Glee club furnished inspiring music during the evening. Various amusements were to be had until the arrival of Cash Moses, in whose honor the party was given. In company with his wife he arrived on the Missouri Pacific at 11 p. m. On entering the hall Judge Cole welcomed the colonel as follows:

There was a sound of revelry by night  
And Barton's capital had gathered there  
Her wit, her wisdom and her chivalry.  
Then spoke a stranger and he said,  
What means these actions rash?  
The answer came all down the line  
'We're here to welcome CASH.'

"After receiving a cordial greeting by those who knew her, and after taking a glance at the hall and its appointments, Mrs. Moses excused herself and withdrew. An elegant lunch was then spread, presided over by Commodore W. B. Cornell, the director general of the banquet.

"Colonel Moses made an informal talk to the boys on the war and gave some interesting

details, after which the following was delivered by C. P. Townsley:

"Here's to the health of our honored guest,  
Who visits us for a little rest,  
But when he's through with this banquet  
night

He'll wish he were back in old Cavite,  
For after all I feel assured  
A man can die from being bored.  
That the battle-field with its leaden hail  
Is not more risky than Kansas quail—

When mixed with other things.

We honor Cash for he bears a scar,  
Received in this Aguinaldo war  
In defense of the flag that proudly floats  
Where Dewey placed it with his boats,  
And in years to come when things expand  
Cash will be glad he took a hand  
In helping to save what the fathers left,  
And in adding more to give it heft—

When mixed with other things.

And we drink a health to this jolly crowd  
Who'd have gone to war had they been allowed

But some were too young and some too old  
And the women could not be left in the cold.  
For the winter was long and the spring was late

And somebody had to care for the state,  
And very properly that was us,  
And we tended to it without any fuss—

When mixed with other things.'

"The festivities were continued until about 1 o'clock, though many people left earlier. It was a very pleasant affair and all had a merry time."

## FIRST SETTLERS IN GREAT BEND

**E**DWIN TYLER tells about his arrival here with the first people to locate on what is now the townsite of Great Bend. In speaking of those times Mr. Tyler said: "On October 16, 1871, there camped upon the present site of Great Bend Mr. and Mrs. Louis Frey, Thompson Frey, James Pond, Lute Morris, Paul Morphy, Henry Schaeffer, Chris Zeizer, G. N. Moses, J. H. Tilton, W. H. Odell, James and Hi Bickerdyke and those who arrived on that date were Mr. and Mrs. E. Tyler, with their three children; Mr. and Mrs. Gromans and two children and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hartshorn. Those who were here gave us a warm welcome. The people began to establish their new homes and everything went well until the blizzards of November 16 and 17. They caused a great deal of discomfort. After the blizzard the Gromans left us. The first buildings consisted of the old Southern Hotel at first called the Drovers' Cottage, and one shack made of stock boards. There

were no carpets on any of the floors excepting Mrs. Kate Frey's parlor, which was covered with a layer of grass.

One house consisted of four poles sunk into the ground with three buffalo hides, tacked to them. There were several of the old timers who spent most of their time scouting and making things as comfortable as possible for the women folks, some of whom were quite timid.

There never was a bunch of men who looked more carefully after the welfare of the women than did Barton County's early settlers. On the first evening after our arrival here the Pawnee Indians made the camp a visit while on their return from an expedition down to Medicine Lodge. Some of us tenderfeet were alarmed but G. N. Moses assured us that there was no danger but to keep near our guns. At that time there was nothing to hinder us seeing in all directions for many miles. In fact, we could see what was then known as Five

Mile Timber and Twelve Mile Timber. A few days later while we were looking down the trail, G. N. Moses and myself were somewhat excited at seeing a black object coming towards us. We watched and patiently waited until it came near enough for us to recognize Judge Morton, dressed in a fine suit of black clothes, black hat, kid gloves and umbrella. The old timers eyed him as an antelope would a red flag. The judge was highly respected by our community. He was a good man for

the times, and he helped many of the old timers over rough periods of frontier life. The first milch cow on the townsite was brought by W. H. Hartshorn, who led her behind his wagon more than 500 miles across the prairies. Louis Frey brought the first mule team. There was but one building between here and Atlanta at that time and that was T. Backby's at Fort Zarah. The places of note were called ranches in those days.

## ROBERT MERTEN

ONE of the men who came here in 1855 and has had a great deal to do with the farming and commercial life of Barton County, is Robert Merten. He was born in Elberfeldt, Germany, December 13, 1839. He came to America with his parents when he was eight years of age, the family first locating in Keokuk County, Iowa. Robert remained there until 1863 when he took up the occupation of freighting across the plains. He continued in this business until

resides on the old home place in this county; Edwin M., who lives in town and is in the farming business, and Susie, who is now Mrs. E. E. Bohl, and lives in Ottawa, Kansas. When Mr. Merten arrived in this county he bought railroad land and from time to time added to his holdings and now owns in this county 320 acres of land and also owns 700 acres in Pawnee and Rush counties. Mr. Merten is vice president of the Citizens National Bank of Great Bend and is a director of the



Robert Merten

1865, when he went to Denver and spent one summer, after which he returned to St. Joe, Mo. Then he went back to the old home place in Iowa and in 1875 came to Barton County and in the following year brought his family to the new country. He was married May 1, 1861, to Miss Maria Becker and they are the parents of six children as follows: Albert N., who is farming in this county in Clarence township; Annie, who is now Mrs. A. B. Willcutt and resides in Clarence township; Mary, who is now Mrs. H. J. Campbell, also resides in Clarence; Frank,

Pawnee Rock and Hoisington State banks. Since his retirement from active farming he has occupied a fine residence at 2423 Fort avenue in Great Bend. Mr. Merten has held township offices and served as county commissioner for one year. He has always taken a leading part in the development of the county's resources and has been closely identified with its business and agricultural interests. All of his land in this county is being worked by renters and is in a high state of development.

## FRED C. LUDWIG

**F**RED C. LUDWIG was born in Germany, January 1, 1871, and came to America when he was fourteen years of age. He came to Barton County in 1885 and began the business of farming. He with his brother farms a half section of land in section 36, South Bend township. He also owns 640 acres of land in Texas. He was married in Kansas City in 1892, to Miss Annie Alt and they are

barn is 34 by 40 and has a large loft where it is possible to store a good quantity of hay and grain. A small orchard is found on the home place and it contains nearly all varieties of fruits that are common to this section of the country. Mr. Ludwig is a farmer that believes in modern methods and his long residence in Barton County has given him the experience necessary to get the best results from



Residence of Fred C. Ludwig

the parents of two children: Eliza, 16 years of age and Rudolph, ten years of age, both of whom are students in the Barton County schools. Mr. Ludwig's home place is located in an ideal spot, the residence consisting of eight rooms in addition to closets, pantries, etc., is well built and neatly furnished. The

his efforts in cultivating the soil. The home place is located about nine miles south and east of Great Bend and Mr. Ludwig is known as an enterprising and progressive citizen. He belongs to several German orders and is one of the best known men in the county.

## JIM GAINSFORD

**W**HAT little is known about Jim Gainsford is what such men as John Tilton and other old timers have been able to remember. Jim is chiefly noted as far as this country is concerned, for his having been marshal of Great Bend at a time when it required a great deal of nerve to control the lawless element. He was marshal during the years 1871-72-73, and was also deputy sheriff under G. N. Moses, and at one time held the office of deputy U. S. marshal. He had been a soldier in the civil war and after the war was over he came west, first to Abilene and from there to Great Bend. He was not the kind of a man who cared for farming so never took up

a government claim, in fact he was never known to do a day's work, but preferred the job of an officer where he could exercise his authority and at times show his skill with a gun. He was a good marksman and had plenty of courage, although he was known too as being a big bluffer, and proud of dressing as a fierce frontiersman with a belt of cartridges about his waist and a whole battery of guns displayed about his body. Jim accompanied G. N. Moses on many of his trips after criminals and was never known to show the white feather. However he backed down one time for G. N. Moses. John Tilton tells the incident as follows: "In those days soldiers

were equipped with needle guns and none but government employees were supposed to carry them. Jim had been blustering about a great deal as a deputy marshal and had taken needle guns from many of the settlers and buffalo

needle gun. George told him that we had those guns over there in our dugout and if he wanted them to come and get them, but he thought he would find a warm reception. It is needless to say Jim never came after those



Jim Gainsford

hunters, although it is doubtful if the government ever realized from them. George Moses and I, each bought a gun from the soldiers at Fort Dodge. Jim went up to George when he learned of this and told him he wanted that

guns." As the county filled up and things became a little more civilized Jim moved westward where his wild spirit could have freer rein. He is now an old man, an inmate of the National Soldier's Home in California.

## JOHN TILTON

**J**OHN TILTON was born in Noble County, Ohio, May 28, 1841. He was married to Mrs. Adeline Eastey in Barton County, Kansas, November 26, 1872, and Mrs. Tilton is the mother of two children by a former marriage, their names being Frank H. Eastey and Estella Eastey, (now Mrs. Elmer H. Dean of Kansas City.) Mr. Tilton enlisted in the U. S. Army in September, 1861, as a private in Company G., 10th Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He served in many important engagements during the war; among them may be mentioned the campaign against Vicksburg, Jonesboro, Evacuation of Atlanta and other important engagements. He was honorably discharged from service August 16, 1865. Mr. Tilton came west in 1867 and was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad Co., having had numerous contracts for grading and for furnishing timber for bridge work, etc. He went

to Denver in 1869 and was employed in Gomer's Mills in Bijou Basin near that city. It was here that he met George Moses the first time. In March, 1870, he and George Moses bought two yoke of oxen and in company with Bill Leak, Joe Townley and W. H. White—better known as Heck White—started for Kansas following the U. P. right of way. They finally landed at Ellsworth after encountering a terrific storm near Cheyenne Wells. It was by the merest chance that they were not all frozen to death. They located claims near Ellsworth in the form of soldiers' homesteads and made some improvements, but threw them up and came to Barton County after hearing of the wonderful country near the big bend in the Arkansas. George came ahead to the new country while Tilton remained and looked after a big hay contract they had secured. John pre-empted the northeast quarter of 32 on the



southwest outskirts of Great Bend while Geo. was to take the southwest quarter of section 28, which is now in the townsite of Great Bend. While John was on his way to Salina to file he was overtaken by George who told him not to file on the quarter originally picked for him as it had been decided to locate the town on it. George later filed on the northwest quarter of 32. This was in July or August of 1870. They hunted buffaloes until 1874, but John could not pay out on his preemptions,

fit, two yoke of oxen for which they had been offered \$500. These were the same oxen that brought them from Colorado. They had but little more than started when a band of about fifty Indians came charging up about an hour after sundown, but when they saw that the hunting party was ready to fight they laid down their arms and became very docile. That night the hunters' oxen were stolen. They hunted for days but were unsuccessful. George Moses who was using Gilmore's horse came



J. F. Tilton

so he got Bill Leak to homestead who then gave John the north eighty acres of it as his share. John laid out the Ireland's addition to Great Bend in 1887. He was the first constable in the county and served Great Bend as city marshal. He hunted a great deal with George Moses and W. C. Gibson and can tell of some mighty interesting incidents. In 1871 he with George Moses, Jim Gilmore, Jim Travers and W. W. Winstead was hunting buffaloes on Bluff creek. He and George furnished the out-

upon a party from east of Wichita who were camped on the Ninnesseh and got them to go after the other boys who were marooned on Bluff creek. The party finally were reunited but the oxen were never found. A claim was later allowed by the government for the loss of the oxen. Mr. Tilton is one of the really old timers of the county who are still here and knows the early day history of Barton County and Great Bend.

## E. R. MOSES MERCANTILE CO.

The firm of E. R. Moses Mercantile Company is an evolution of the firms of Burton & Johnson, Burton, Odell & Moses, Burton, Moses & Brother and G. N. & E. R. Moses. The first named firm came here from Argonia, Kansas, and bought out the store of Mr. Morphy who owned a stock of hardware in a building on the north side of the square on 1st 18, block 20. This was in 1874 and in the following year Mr. Johnson sold his interest to Odell and Moses, the firm name being changed to Burton, Odell & Moses. This firm was composed of E. W. Burton, W. H. Odell, Geo. N. Moses. In April, 1877, E. R. Moses bought out Mr. Odell and the firm name became Burton, Moses and Brother. In 1881 Mr. Burton retired and the firm became G. N. & E. R. Moses. In 1900 George N. sold his interest in the business to E. R. Moses and since that time the business has been run under the name of E. R. Moses Mercantile Company. This firm is the result of many ups and downs with the latter in the minority and the men who helped in building up the business had to contend with all the hardships and trials incident to all pioneer firms in a new country. This business was built up in a part of the Great American Desert where sand and wind, grasshoppers, and crop failures prevailed in the early seventies. The life of the business was as uncertain as the crops and when the crops were continued failures the different lines of business were a continual nightmare and many of them finally changed hands or petered out. All have gone when this business was started in 1874 as have also many who came afterwards. It is hard to think of those brave fellows who worked early and late, hard and earnestly and left too soon to reap where they had sown, having grown tired of waiting in vain for good crops and better times that never came. In those days class distinction played no part in the work of upbuilding and everybody aided in making things as pleasant as possible for his neighbors. The senior members of the firms that ran the E. R. Moses Mercantile Company business before this time have all passed away. Mr. Burton died in 1886, Mr. Odell a few years later, Geo. N. Moses in 1911. The business carried on by the E. R. Moses Mercantile Co. is a department store and one of the largest in the west and carries everything in the the general merchandise line from a pin to a piano, and supplies everything that is needed by the people of this county from the cradle to the grave. The principal lines are hardware, stoves, tin, copper, granite, nickel and aluminum ware, dishes, novelties, watches, clocks, jewelry, silver and cut glass ware, kodaks, furniture, carpets, curtains, trunks and valises, sewing machines, pianos and organs, and smaller musical instruments, farm implements and machinery, wagons, buggies, pumps, windmills, tinning,

plumbing and heating, paints, oils, glass, undertaking and embalming. They say it takes three classes of people to settle a country, the pioneer, the tenderfoot and the sticker. There are many more chances than this in a business life. In the hardware and implement line we count the following names that have come and gone: A. W. Gray, Dodge & Co., William Friend, John Frank, Brinkman and Gwinn, Balm and Balm, Sterrit and Co., J. A. Sterrit, Charles Culver, Hulme, Patterson Kern and Co., Cook and Panning, S. P. Bell, F. H. Miller and Fred Hemker and several transient ones who are coming and going all the time. In 1880 the firm of Burton, Moses & Brother opened a branch store in Gunnison, Colorado. Mr. E. W. Burton and G. N. Moses took charge of this store and E. R. Moses ran the Great Bend store. Two years later the partnership of Burton, Moses & Brother ceased, Mr. Burton taking the Gunnison store and G. N. and E. R. Moses the Great Bend store. In 1891 G. N. Moses and E. R. Moses opened two branch stores; one at Hoisington and one at Claflin. Mr. D. J. Lewis was put in as manager of the Hoisington branch and Mr. John A. Barth as a manager of the Claflin store. These stores were developed into large department stores. In 1901 Mr. E. R. Moses sold the Claflin store to Barth and Herthel on account of engaging in the banking business and not wanting the care of it. Having organized the Citizens National Bank of Great Bend and later on the Pawnee Rock State Bank and the Peoples State Bank of Hoisington, all of which he is president of. The store at Hoisington has been increased from time to time until it is one of the most complete stores in the state of Kansas. Carrying goods in addition to what they carry in Great Bend, boots, shoes, hats, caps, gents' furnishing goods, and they also manufacture harness. It has a frontage of 150 feet with a building 125 by 100 feet, two stories with a nice plate glass front. For two years G. N. and E. R. Moses were engaged in the real estate business with W. M. Gunnell, but when G. N. retired from business E. R. Moses having enough to attend to, sold his interest with G. N. Moses to W. M. Gunnell. This business was a success. When Mr. Gunnell died the firm of Dawson & Zutavern bought the business and made it a much greater success. The Great Bend store occupies two rooms on Main street 50 by 140 feet, two stories and a basement, another building on Williams street 500 by 100 feet. E. R. Moses believes if anybody wants to make a success of his business he must stick to it, hug it closer and watch it more when times are hard and after a number of years he can take it easier, but he must stick to it for there is nothing he can do so well as to keep busy watching his business grow as long as he lives. He also believes

that too many changes are liable to cause failure. E. R. Moses, jr., looks after the mercantile business at the present time while E. R., sr., advises with him. He is a young man who has made good by close application and constantly sticking to it, backed by a good education and right living. He knows what it is as he has passed through every department and has learned every detail. He is pleasant,

whole-souled, kind and generous and well liked by all who know him.

The E. R. Moses Mer. Co. is an incorporated firm. The officers are E. R. Moses, sr., pres., E. R. Moses, jr., vice-pres., W. W. Nimocks, secretary, D. J. Lewis, treasurer. Mr. Nimocks sold his interest to Mr. E. R. Moses, jr., who was made vice-president and secretary.

## E. R. Moses Mercantile Co., Hoisington, Kansas

(Illustration on page 198.)

In the fall of 1891, G. N. Moses, E. R. Moses and D. J. Lewis bought the little two story 25x70 frame building, and the hardware business it contained, of Alex. Dennis. The next year they added a two story building of steel 50x100 and filled it with good new goods. Almost each year since they have added new buildings and equipment until now the store has a frontage of 125 feet of modern plate glass show windows and the building contains over 25,000 square feet of floor space, and over fifteen men are employed the year round.

In May, 1905, this store, with the one at Great Bend, were incorporated, and the name changed from Hoisington Hardware and Implement Co., to the E. R. Moses Mercantile Co.

The management of the store has been in charge of Mr. D. J. Lewis since its founding, and the firm has always been ready to aid and assist in Hoisington's growth and development. They have full confidence in Hoisington and her people and see nothing but a bright future for the town.

Mr. Lewis was born in Wales, coming to America when a young man, first working in Pennsylvania, where he followed his trade of contractor and builder. From there he went to Cleveland, Ohio, then to Wisconsin and Illinois, and finally came to Kansas in the 70s. He farmed and contracted in Rice County and later in Barton, until taking up the management of the business at its beginning.

The business began with hardware and this department has always been kept up in first class shape. One of the most complete

and best arranged paint stocks in the state is a part of the department.

The jewelry department has charge of the Missouri Pacific Railway watch inspection for Hoisington to Pueblo and carries a fine stock of railroad watches, diamonds, cut glass, fine china and silver. A fully equipped optical department, in charge of a graduate optician is a feature of the department.

The shoe and furnishing department is fully stocked and the very best lines of goods produced in the country are well represented in the stock.

The furniture department contains a complete stock of house furnishings of all kinds and the finest equipped and stocked undertaking rooms in Kansas west of Kansas City on the Missouri Pacific.

The heating and plumbing department is in charge of thoroughly efficient mechanics, and their strongest bid for new work is the satisfied customers they have worked for in times past.

The harness department make all kinds of harness and leather work, and is in charge of a first class harness maker. A large stock of harness, nets, collars, whips, etc., is carried.

The implement department carries a big display of farm implements and wagons, windmills, fencing, scales, gas engines, buggies and cream separators.

The store's policy has been liberal and progressive, and ever abreast of the times. No worthy man ever asked credit or help, without receiving it, and the great business the store does year after year shows that it merits the confidence of the people.

## E. R. MOSES, Sr.

**T**HE subject of this sketch, Mr. E. R. Moses, has had a more varied life than falls to most people. He was born in Olean, Cattaraugus County, New York. At an early age his parents moved to Pechonica, Ill., where he lived until eleven years of age, when they moved to Sedalia, Mo. Here he graduated from the common schools and was admitted to practice law in the courts of Missouri. In 1873 he went to California overland with three other young men, camping out for a few months for their health, notwithstanding it was very dangerous at times with the Indians, there being no railroads built at this time south. For a while they despaired of all hope of ever arriving in California because of the Indian outbreaks. He arrived in San Diego,

ington, that are second to none in the State of Kansas. In 1901 he, with others started the Citizens National Bank of Great Bend which is one of the most progressive and solid institutions in the state. The year after he started, with others the Pawnee Rock Bank, and the year following started The Peoples State Bank of Hoisington. All of the banks are prosperous and not a dollar's worth of stock is for sale in either one of them.

In 1879 Mr. Moses married Miss Retta I. Newel of Ottumwa, Iowa, who at this time was visiting her sister, Mrs. G. W. Nimocks. To this union were born two children, Mr. Edward R. Moses, jr., who is manager of the Mercantile business, and Miss Grace Moses, who mar-



California, December, 1873, and for three years made his home in California, Oregon and Washington. In 1876 he went east to attend the Centennial at Philadelphia, and from there he came to Great Bend, having visited this place in 1873. He came back to Great Bend to go into business with the firm of Burton, Odell & Moses. He bought an interest in this firm, Mr. Odell retiring. Then G. N. and E. R. Moses bought out Mr. Burton in 1881. In 1900 Mr. Moses bought out his brother G. N. Moses who wished to retire from business. Since then the business has been conducted under the name of the E. R. Moses Mercantile Co. Mr. Moses has given the greater part of his life in building up this business and has today stores in Great Bend and Hois-

ington, that are second to none in the State of Kansas, and now lives there.

Mr. Moses has been quite successful and has often been asked why he did not move to Chicago, Kansas City or some other large city. He has always given the reason that he liked to live in the city and state where he made his money, and that he was too old to start in a new business. That he wanted to work as long as he lived, and he could work best in the business he had started in and worked up from the very beginning. Mr. Moses is a loyal Kansan and like his wife likes the sunshine and the climate of Kansas, and would prefer to live in the country that had less rain than in one that had all rain and no health.





Residence of E. R. Moses, Sr.



E. R. Moses, Jr.

**M**R. E. R. MOSER, JR., is a Kansas product. He was born in Great Bend, Kansas, and has lived here all his life, save the time he spent at the State University and the Musical Institute of Warren, Ohio. He was a member of the Phi Delta Fraternity and boarded there while attending the State University at Lawrence. He is a graduate of the Great Bend High School and State University of Law of Lawrence. He passed a creditable examination before the supreme court to practice in the State of Kansas. After considering whether to practice law or to go into business with his father, he chose the latter and is now vice-president, secretary and general manager of the E. R. Moses Mercantile Co., of Great Bend and Hoisington. He has worked himself up from every department to this position in order that he might understand how to make it a greater success, which

he is doing. He puts most of his time into this business. He is also director of the Citizens National Bank of Great Bend, Kansas, Pawnee Rock State Bank of Pawnee Rock, Kansas, and of the Peoples State Bank of Hoisington, Kansas.

In 1908 he married Miss Jessie Isabel of Iowa. They have two girls, one eighteen months old and the other three years old. He is nicely located in one of the nicest homes in Great Bend, Kansas. He is a thorough Kansan and nothing is too good for the city, county or state in which he lives. He is a member of the Masonic Fraternity, Elks and the Business Men's Club.

He is a young man that does things. Not waiting for them to turn up. He goes to work and turns them up himself. He is courteous, frank and open, which makes him a friend to everyone.

## CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK

The Citizens National Bank of Great Bend, Kansas, was organized March the 11th, 1901, with the following directors: E. R. Moses, Robt. Merten, G. N. Moses, John Sterett, M. F. Sowards, and Jos. Troilett. The officers were E. R. Moses, president; Robert Merten, vice-president; R. H. Moses, cashier and F. A. Moses, assistant cashier.

The bank started business in the room occupied by the J. V. Brinkman Banking Co., for many years located back of the Allen Drug Store. They remained here until December, 1906, when they moved into their beautiful and capacious quarters, which has the very latest of modern furniture and fixtures, with ladies' waiting room, directors room, safety vaults

thing that is good for the people's interest. They not only believe that it is absolutely necessary to treat every man, woman and child courteously and kindly and look after their interest with fidelity and zeal but to protect their money just as far as they can get means to do so. For this reason they insure in one of the best insurance companies in the United States.

Every dollar deposited in their bank is insured against loss of any kind and from any source. The people can rest assured that their money is secure in this bank in hard and panic times as well as good times.

The officers of this bank started the Pawnee Rock State Bank of Pawnee Rock, Kansas, and the People State Bank of Hoisington, Kan-



Citizens National Bank

and everything to make it the very latest of modern banks.

It is located on the corner formerly occupied by the Allen Drug Store, which the bank bought at this time.

The officers are the same as before with the addition of Edward Opie as assistant cashier and Hylas Butler book-keeper and stenographer. The directors at the present time are E. R. Moses, sr., Robt. M. Merten, Edward Merten, O. W. Dawson and E. R. Moses, Jr.

The bank has been prosperous from the very start, which is credited to the progress and energetic ways in which it has been run. Today it stands as one of the most solid institutions in Western Kansas. It is a great believer in grasping hold of everything and any-

sas, and have ever since been connected with it. They are promoters in everything that benefits the community in which they live. They stand up first, last and always for Great Bend, Barton County and the State of Kansas. The depositors of this bank are not confined to this community in which they are located but they have depositors in several states of the Union. They are members of the State Bankers' Association and the American Bankers' Association. Some officer attends each one of these associations each year, in order that they might keep up with the times. It would do one good to visit this bank and see how nicely it is equipped for business. They do not take a back seat to any bank in the State of Kansas in this way.

## DAN WORTH BANTA—Violinist

**M**R. BANTA was born in Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas, January 23rd, 1887, and has studied music since the age of 8. His first musical studies were given him by his mother at the piano. Not satisfied with the piano, his longing for something more to his temperament was cleared upon the hearing of an artist violinist and from that time on this instrument has claimed his attention. He is an artist pupil of Signor Guido Parisi of the Royal Conservatory of Music, at Milan, Italy, and taught the two years prior to his return to his home, at the residence of Judge D. A. Banta of this city, in the Strassberger Conservatories of Music at St. Louis, as assistant to Signor Parisi. He was a favorite of this great teacher, who wished to take him to Europe for study, and even wished to will his \$3,000 Gagliano Violin to him. Signor Parisi said of him:

"Mr. Dan Worth Banta has been a pupil of

Symphony Orchestra, and of "Rose Reichard" who is, with Maud Powell, one of the greatest of our few great lady violinists in America, and who was a favorite pupil of "Isaye," the greatest living violinist, and of Marteau, the great French master.

In speaking of Mr. Banta, Miss Reichard said: "Dan Worth Banta is a violinist of ability, and a young man of high ideals. During his study with me, he made rapid progress, proving himself a student of talent and intelligence. Possessing good technique and artistic temperament, together with an attractive personality and stage presence, he is assured of success.

I am very glad to recommend him to the music loving public.

"ROSE REICHARD."

Dir. Violin Dept. of  
Drake Cons. Des. Moines, Ia.  
Has played with the St. Louis Symphony



mine for the last four years. He is a good performer and teacher, having appeared in concerts here in St. Louis, and taught the violin as assistant teacher in the Strassberger Conservatories.

GUIDO PARISI,

Dir. Violin Dept. Strassberger,  
Cons. St. Louis."

Mr. Banta was a pupil of Richard Poppen, one of the greatest harmony teachers who have come to this country, and under whom he received his knowledge of Musical Theory, Composition and Harmony. He was a pupil, also, of "Hugo Olk," a great pupil of "Joachim," and Concert-Meister of the St. Louis

Orchestra, and has directed his own orchestra the last four years, and holds graduate, post-graduate and artist medals and diplomas, with the medal of honor from the Strassberger Cons., under Parisi.

He has a growing class of bright pupils in Great Bend, and is developing an orchestra of a class above the average.

He has had numerous calls for his services, both as a teacher, and as a performer, but has decided to carry on his work here until September, 1913.

This will benefit all who wish to study the violin, and harmony, under an artist, for this length of time, here, as it is taught by European teachers.



## LUTELLUS BALDWIN

**L**UTELLUS BALDWIN was born in the State of Pa., and came to Barton County from that state in 1876. He was educated at the Washington and Jefferson College of Washington, Pa. He at first intended to take up the practice of law and studied to this end, but after his arrival in Kansas he gave most of his attention to work along educational lines and served Barton County as superintendent of schools for two terms, and afterwards taught school for a number of years. He finally grew interested in geology and made a most enviable reputation as a student of this science. He gave a great deal of time to the study of the rock formation of Kansas especially the Dakota sand stones and he has received most gratifying recognition from the Department of Geology at Washington, D. C. Mr. Baldwin is given credit for having been one of the first to agitate the subject of irrigation of the arid lands of the west and in the nineties wrote a great deal on the subject of irrigation for some of the lead-

ing newspapers of the country. It was a direct result of his call that the first irrigation convention to be held in the state convened at Great Bend in August, 1893. The result of this meeting and Mr. Baldwin's work afterwards had a great deal to do with the hurrying of the big irrigation projects that have since been completed in Kansas and other states. Mr. Baldwin has also made a study of soil formations and water supplies and his knowledge on these subjects makes his opinion on these matters worthy of great consideration. He is a member of the National Geographical Society, the headquarters of which are at Washington D. C. Mr. Baldwin was married in 1881 to Miss Martha Gunn and they reside in Great Bend at the present time. Mr. Baldwin is well known all over the state and especially in Barton County where he and his wife have taught school and in other ways helped in building up the county of Barton and city of Great Bend.

## CHARLES ANDRESS

**C**HARLES ANDRESS is one of the many old timers of Barton County who left here and journeyed afar, but still retained a material interest in the county, and has made frequent trips back to look after his interests and renew the ac-

his frequent trips that we got the information from which to make the article for this book. He was born in Brockville, Canada January 15, 1852—also his mother's birthday—and when Charles was two years of age his parents moved to Chesaning, Michigan, a lumber and shingle camp in Saginaw County. His father was a turner and cabinet maker by trade and he had a very strenuous time making both ends meet, and to make things worse after the family had been there about two years the elder Andress was injured in the machinery and died after three weeks of suffering. This left Mrs. Andress with five boys, the oldest not quite sixteen at that time and the youngest only two years and Charles about four years of age. The family was fourteen miles from the nearest railroad station and money was mighty hard to get. The country was sparsely settled, the nearest town being Owosso. We quote from Mr. Andress' interview:

"My mother certainly had a very hard time of it raising her boys and I well remember the many trials she went through to hold the family together. Why, I have known her to sit up all night to finish knitting a pair of socks so she could trade them for groceries the next morning to prepare our breakfast so we could go to school and as she could not buy shoes for us she would wrap our feet in cloth rags and send us to school and when we arrived at the school house we would take off the rags and lay them by the fire to dry out so we could have them ready for wearing home at night after school. The two older



acquaintances formed in the early days. Although Mr. Andress has traveled all over the world, most of the time being engaged in the show business he has always owned land in Barton County and it was while here on one of



brothers of course helped all they could and as we were all more or less musically inclined we soon found considerable income from playing for country dances, but enough of this, for I know you are anxious to know how I started in the show business. I was always gifted with the power or knack of imitating birds and animals and doing different stunts in so-called ventriloquism, and in those days every hotel had a hall over head in which all dances and shows were given and the shows all traveled by stage or private conveyance, and in 1862 a magician came along by the name of Prof. Hertz, a foreigner, and offered my mother \$10 a month if she would consent to my traveling with him and would send her the money in advance every month and would clothe me, etc., and as the two oldest brothers were now enlisted in the army she very much disliked to part with me but finally consented to let me go. Well I had been out with this magician nearly two years when he was taken sick and died in Pontiac, Michigan, and his wife soon left for England and left me to shift for myself. My two years schooling with him had advanced me very materially as he was a good violinist and we always played for a dance after the show and I was a good "fiddler" for a boy and he bought me a violin and made me a present of it, and this, with a fairly good suit of clothes, was all I possessed when Mrs. Hertz left for England. I soon joined hands with an old minstrel performer by the name of Zeke Filiman who played a banjo and with him I used to play for dances in and around Pontiac until he went into retirement on a farm, which left me to shift as best I could for myself. It was then I organized my first show which consisted of a few tricks in magic, which I had learned from the professor, and my ventriloqual act. A set of cambrie curtains and the "fiddle," and 500 little programs which I had printed in Lapeer, which cost me \$3.50, and the outfit when packed consisted of a sack containing a small cambrie curtain, some small tricks in magic and my talking figure. With this equipment in the sack which I carried over my shoulder, and my fiddle in one hand I would travel on foot from one place to another giving shows and occasionally playing for a dance after the show."

From this primitive beginning Mr. Andress by dint of hard work and careful management his possessions grew until he finally had gotten together a good opera house show, consisting of trained birds, dogs, monkeys, goats, ponies and other animals. In 1874 he decided to go to California with a little show. It was when he was making this trip that he came to Great Bend and put on a show. There

being no opera house he got permission from the sheriff to show in the court house for four nights. He stretched a rope across the street from Allen's corner and gave an exhibition with the birds. One of the feathered creatures walked the rope wheeling in front of it another bird in a wheel barrow. Mr. Andress gave presents away at the inside performance and although times were very hard just at that time the show made a big success. This show will always be remembered by the old timers who were here at that time as having been one of the big events of the year. The show was a novelty for the town and was well patronized. At the hotel—the Old Drovers' Cottage—Mr. Andress was seated at the same table with Mrs. T. L. Stone whose husband had recently died. She told Mr. Andress that she would sell her farm which consisted of a homestead and timber claim of 320 acres with a granary and other improvements for about what the improvements cost, about \$1000. Mr. Andress bought the property but it was only a few days when he began to realize that he had paid a good price, as he was besieged on all sides by farmers who wanted to sell him their holdings on practically the same basis. One man who made an offer to Mr. Andress is best told in his own words:

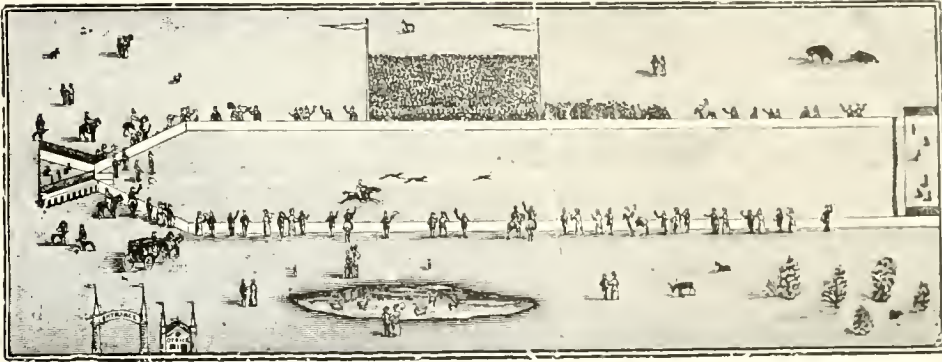
"Are you the man who bought Widow Stone's property? Was asked by the farmer. I told him I was, and he remarked, that he would have done better by me had he seen me first, and when I asked him what he had for sale in the way of farm land, and he said he said he had a good quarter two miles nearer town than Mrs. Stone's with eighty acres in wheat, a small house and granary, etc. He said he had a good team of mules which he said cost him \$150. He said if I would buy his mules he would throw in the farm, implements and improvements. I bought the mules and the remainder of the things mentioned. I had several similar offers and one farmer who was anxious to leave the country had a half section as good as any in Barton County and he offered either one of his quarters for \$150 and would throw in the other quarter for good measure. These same quarters are worth \$100 per acre today."

Mr. Andress has been offered \$100 an acre for his holdings in Barton County but he says he will not sell yet awhile at any rate. In fact the last time he was in Great Bend he practically closed a deal for three more quarter sections of land in the county. Mr. Andress says although he might spend a great deal of his time in other parts of the country he always calls Barton County his home and is going to continue in the future as in the past to do all that is within his power to make it bigger and better in years to come.

## AMERICAN COURSING CLUB

ONE of the institutions that flourished for awhile in the eighties in Great Bend, and afterwards became only a part of the history of the town, was the American Coursing Club. This club was the first of its kind to be organized in America and had for its purposes the racing of grey-hounds and by these tests bring out the good points, and by

people and dogs from all parts of the country and the entries included some of the fastest dogs in the world. The first officers of the club and the ones who had charge of the meeting were: Colonel Taylor of Emporia, president; Dr. Royce of Topeka, secretary and J. V. Brinkman of Great Bend, treasurer. There were two stakes run at each meet, one



eliminating the bad ones improve the breed of these fleet footed animals. The club was organized in 1886 after a meeting had been held at Topeka when the following were present: Dr. Royce of Topeka, Col. Taylor of Emporia, D. C. Luse of Great Bend, A. Allison of Hutchinson and John Kelly of Dodge City. After the club was organized the officers immediately began looking for a suitable site for a course,

of them being for dogs of all ages, a free for all, with a ten dollar entrance fee. The entrance money was divided into prizes and for the all age course a cup and a hundred dollars in cash was given by Dr. N. Rowe, editor of the sportsmen's magazine, "American Field." To this was added a silver medal for the winner given by the National Greyhound Club of New York City. D. C. Luse of Great



LADY BARTON

Winner of Many Courses in 1889-90-91. Amounting to Over \$1,000

Owned by D. C. Luse, of Great Bend

They went all over the western part of the state but found nothing that was so well adapted for the purpose as Cheyenne Bottoms in Barton County. Therefore this site was selected and in October, 1886, the first meet was held. The meet was attended by

Bend also donated a silver cup which had to be won twice by the same kennel to gain permanent possession. The winner of the first all age stake was "Midnight" owned by Colonel Taylor of Emporia. The other stake run at the annual meetings was known as the

Puppy Stake for which similar prizes were given as were awarded the winners in the all age stake. These meets brought thousands of people to Great Bend and during the coursing at the Cheyenne Bottoms the country was literally alive with men and women on horseback and in buggies. D. C. Luse of Great Bend at one time owned seventy-five dogs and his animals won the prizes at the second meeting of the club to be held in Great Bend. Among those who were keenly interested in this sport were: D. C. Luse, Ira Brougher, J. V. Brinkman, D. N. Heizer, W. W. Carney and many others of Great Bend; C. S. Page of Aurora, Illinois; H. C. Lowe, of Lawrence, Kansas; Robert Smart of Ellinwood; Dr. N. Rowe of Chicago; August Belmont of New York; H. W. Huntington of

Brooklyn; John E. Thayer of Lancaster, Massachusetts; A. C. Lightall of Denver, Colorado; Colonel R. S. McDonald of St. Louis; Colonel David Taylor of Emporia, and Alfred Haigh of Cable, Illinois. All of the names mentioned held offices in the club at different times during the time the club's coursing grounds were in Barton County. The winner of the all age stake was known as the Champion of America. After the meets had been held in Great Bend ten successive years the club was reorganized and the meets are still continued but are held at different points each year, the town or city offering the best financial inducements being given the preference. Many of the old timers will remember the exciting times that attended meets in Great Bend when numerous bets were made on the outcome of the different races.



## EARLY BARTON COUNTY HISTORY

By D. N. Heizer, of Colorado Springs, Colo.

(Editor's Note—The following article was furnished us by D. N. Heizer, who perhaps more than any other man, is capable of telling about the stirring incidents that took place in the early days of Barton County. He was among the first to arrive and took a leading part in the laying out of the townsite of Great Bend and in the organization of Barton County.)

Upon request of the editors of the History of Barton County to contribute some account of myself and my experiences in the early settlement of the county which I became a citizen of nearly forty-two years ago and lived in for twenty-two years, I know of no better way than by contributing extracts from letters written in those days now in my possession, and extracts from a Diary, kept somewhat irregularly, giving an idea of the early life on what was then considered and called, "The Plains of Kansas," a somewhat modified term of the "Great American Desert," as explored and named by Major Long in 1819. I was born November 11, 1846, in Ross County, Ohio. I belonged to a race of pioneers; my great-grandfather, Samuel Heizer, was a pioneer in Virginia when the Blue Ridge Mountains marked the line of the frontier, and lived there at the time of the Revolution. My grand-father, Samuel Heizer, was a pioneer in Ohio and moved from Virginia to Ross County in 1816. My father, Edward Heizer, and his brothers all moved to Iowa on the admission of Iowa as a state into the Union, and a part of them before. I was raised on an Iowa farm fifteen miles north of Burlington until I was seventeen years of age, when I enlisted in the latter part of the civil war in Company "M" Second Iowa Cavalry, and served eighteen months of active service and was mustered out at the close of the war at Selma, Alabama. On returning home, I spent a year on the old home farm and during the next five years, spent the greater part of the time taking a course in the Iowa State University and in teaching school.

In May, 1871, within two days after our arrival at Ft. Zarah, Dr. John Prescott, W. W. Weymouth, Wm. Finn, Captain Griffin and myself, organized the Zarah Town Company. Dr. John Prescott was elected president, D. N. Heizer secretary and W. W. Weymouth treasurer. We were all directors. We at once proceeded to select a location for our town and decided on the west fractional half of section 26, township 19, range 13. William Finn, who had a transit and surveyor's chain with him, directed the survey and we staked out a street running north and south, as I

remember, for about two blocks, a row of blocks on either side of the street. This was not intended to be a complete survey, but only such a survey as would enable us to make filing on this land under the Townsite-Preemption Act, as in force at that time. Mr. W. W. Weymouth and Dr. John Prescott were supposed to be the heavy capitalists in this enterprise and the next day after the survey were taken by me to Ellsworth where they took train for their respective homes. Mr. Weymouth to Springfield, Ohio, and Dr. Prescott to Meridan, Miss., both with the avowed determination of arranging their business as speedily as possible, to return with their families for settlement and to develop the new town.

As mentioned before, they were to furnish the capital and Finn and I, especially, were expected to do the heavy hustling. Dr. Prescott was a man of culture and of wonderful energy and had had much experience in frontier life in Northern Iowa in the Ockebogee Lake county, when the Sioux were making their last stand in that portion of Iowa. Mr. Weymouth was a cattle dealer of Springfield, Ohio. He was a man of means; Protestant Irish blood; of fine appearance; a good talker, good natured and jolly; thoroughly companionable and always ready with his Irish wit and blarney. Wm. Finn was a young man of about 28; lived at the then starting town of Sedgwick, where he joined us to make the trip to Ft. Zarah. He was a quiet young man of good education, thoroughly good principle and a good all-round reliable young man. Captain Griffin was also a young man less than 30, had been in the war and lost a leg; was a small man, but he possessed enough spirit and energy to fully make up for his size. He could cover as much territory with his one good and wooden leg, as many men with two good ones. He was full of dash and afraid of nothing, and when later in that season, the Indians brought him to bay in a buffalo wallow in the Medicine Lodge country, seventy empty needle gun shells were found with his body, showing he had made a game defense.

These gentlemen, with myself, laid off the first town in Barton County—the town which was destined never to be a town—but no matter, we had done what seemed to be a new Kansan's first and highest duty, i. e., to lay off a town. No man ever amounted to much in Kansas, unless somewhere at some time in his experience in the state, he laid out a town, or at least, helped to do so or got laid out by some town. Many prominent Kansans can point with pride to the latter experience.



The representatives of the Great Bend Town Company appeared on the scene about the 1st of July, headed by Judge Mitchell of Quincy, Ill., who was a brother of Mrs. W. L. Odell. I returned from a trip on the 4th of July, 1871, the day they had taken their departure. They were apparently on a buffalo hunt, from what Finn related to me, and seemed to be having a good time. In charging a buffalo on the north side of the Bottoms from Ft. Zarah, Judge Mitchell had a horse killed, but escaped unhurt himself. Later, I believe in August, came Thomas Luther Morris, as agent of the Great Bend Town Company and at about this time came Geo. N. Moses, "Mose," as he was familiarly called among the plainsmen. "Mose" impressed me, and I shall never forget the time he came to my camp, then on the northwest quarter of section 22, township 19, range 13, on the Walnut. He rode up on a fourteen hand white Texas pony; he dismounted from a big high backed cowboy saddle with two cinches and wooden stirrups a foot wide. "Mose" and the saddle were larger than the broncho. He stood before me six feet high and straight as an Indian arrow; he had on a weather worn cowboy hat with a rattlesnake band, a navy blue woolen shirt, a pair of much worn buckskin pants with fringe down the seams, cowboy boots, a heavy belt of cartridges with two Navy 44's in its holsters, a five day growth of beard and about a three-ply coat of tan on his face. He reached out his hand and said, "How," like an Injun. As I took it and glanced him over, I made up my mind at once that this was a man I would rather have with me than against me.

Lute Morris, on the other hand, had just come out of the band-box of civilization; he was a gentleman of the Drawingroom type and had never had any experience roughing it and being a man rather of a delicate type physically, with more effeminate tastes, it was perfectly natural that he should make up with "Mose" at Salina and interest him in coming with him into the great and wild Arkansas Valley. It was just as natural for Lute to lean on such a nature as "Mose's" as is for "Mose," in his strength, to permit himself to be leaned upon; they became fast friends. It was through council with George Moses that I afterwards agreed to assure Lute Morris and the Great Bend Town Company, that if they meant business and were ready to proceed at once to improve their town site, (See, 28, Township 19, Range 13,) we would not be in the way with ours. We all then went in together to push the Great Bend enterprise along.

Lute Morris began at once to draw lumber from Ellsworth to build the Great Bend Hotel, which I think was started early in September. Henry Shaffer was brought from Quincy to superintend the carpenter work and I think Henry Shridde came in this connection. E. L. Morphy also came at this time. The

Town Company, or the main men of it, made a trip in the early fall; Dr. Curtis, Judge Mitchell, Archie Williams, then attorney general of Kansas, and others. Morphy was a very interesting, bright little Frenchman; a good observer; had a keen sense of the ludicrous; fond of fun at anyone's expense, but never cruel; was a fine singer, a natural born actor and mimic; a general all round companionable fellow and cultured gentleman. "Morf," as we called him, never missed anything and always entertained us with the little funny things he observed of any of us. It was rumored that the Great Bend Town Company had brought a goodly supply of whisky along with them as they had learned that a colony of Prairie Dogs had long been squatters on their townsites and as rattlesnakes were reported to live with the dogs, the whisky was brought lest the town company might, in an unguarded moment, be bitten on its Charter or By-Laws, or most anywhere, at any rate, they had the whiskey. It seems that everyone bragged to the different members of the Town Company of the integrity of wild life in the wooly west. Nobody ever thought of looking anything up, never had anything stolen and left everything right out in the open. The next morning the Great Bend Town Company had its Charter, By-Laws, Plats, Specifications, boots and shoes, wearing apparel, bags and baggage all right, but they didn't have any whiskey. No one was drunk, faces not even red, but Morphy always said that the next morning when any member of the Town Company would undertake to engage Henry Shaffer in conversation, Henry would smack his lips, turn his liquid blue eyes toward heaven and exclaim that the "Kaviney d-wn Gompany vos yust all right and would make a bigger down as anybody."

Henry Shridde was as nice a little gentleman as ever came to the settlement, but with that fine tender feeling in his heart for old associations, which the Germans possess above all other people, Henry used to get homesick once in a while. Henry would say, "Down at Kaviney on a Sunday morning, we used to go down by the Mississippi river, and de boat would take us by de river out, and we would land by de grass out mit de drees, und der sun a shining, und der boids a singing in de drees, und we'd ave some music und some beers. Oh, dat Kaviney vas a burty place," and the tears would fill Henry's blue eyes.

Dr. Curtis was a very lofty, dignified man. He had brought with him a new dangerous looking butcher knife; he asked Morphy to conduct him to the Arkansas river; every now and then he would make a lofty sweeping stab into the soil with his butcher knife and getting some of the said soil on the knife, he would pose with lofty demeanor as he gazed at it. After a long surgical stare at the sample of soil, he would cast a deliberate sweeping glance around over miles of the beautiful valley and with unctious exclaim, "Morphy, the resources

of this country are vast, vast." They came to the river bank; the river was dry. Morphy proposed they should cross. "Dr." said Morphy, "Can this river be crossed?" (Yes.) "Are there any quicksands in this river?" (No.) "Can it be safely crossed on horseback?" (Yes.) "On foot?" (Yes) "Is there no danger?" (No) "All right, go ahead," and all the way across he would follow Morphy, carefully stepping in his tracks.

Morphy used to entertain us by the hour after the Town Company had gone, mimicking

the first of March, 1872, when the officials of the Great Bend Town Company came out from Quincy and made a deal with the Arkansas Valley Town Company (The A. T. & S. F. R. R.) to combine their interests and push the town of Great Bend, and it was agreed to plit in section 28, township 19, range 13, which the Great Bend Town Company had secured, and section 33, town 19, range 13 which the railroad company owned as the townsite. This began to look like business and gave the settlers west of the Walnut, an additional inter-



D. N. Heizer

the peculiarities of different members.

The Great Bend Hotel was completed in the early winter and Col. Tom Stone came from Missouri and took possession as landlord, also brought with him a stock of goods. Col. Tom was a genial, hospitable landlord and all the settlers liked him.

The Great Bend Hotel began to be the center of interest for the settlers up the Walnut Valley but a decisive event occurred about

est in the town nearest to the hotel.

About the same time, in the summer of 1871, July 1st, when the Great Bend Town Company began to act, a town company was formed at Ellisville, Kansas, by John J. Beckby, John Light & Bros., Perry Holman, James Miller and others, called the Zarah Town Company, and located on the northeastern part of section 30, town 19, range 12, being just outside of the northeastern part of Ft. Zarah.

Reservation. Tite Buckby built a store and had it stocked and in operation in the early fall of 1871. Dave Greaver built a saloon and restaurant, and Dick Strew and his wife moved down from Plum Creek and built a hotel in the early winter of 1871. Tite Buckby was a bright, business-like young man and he and his wife, Mrs. Nettie Buckby (nee Light), were very amiable and popular among the settlers, and really carried with their personal popularity, a very kindly feeling for the town of Zarah. In the early spring, each side began to show jealousy and watch each other.

Captain Ellinwood, the chief engineer of the Santa Fe R. R., made his camp during the spring while at work on the survey near Zarah and it was said, Tite was entertaining the captain just as though he were the whole railroad company. It was even hinted that Tite had imported a two gallon keg of the best rye whisky in the State of Kentucky, and was every day putting a little of it in the captain's canteen to kill the alkali, and up to the first

with the foregoing announcement, gave to the settlers new confidence in the town of Great Bend.

On the evening of March 14th, I was invited to spend the evening with Col. Stone's family at the Great Bend Hotel, for a social slng. Late in the evening, Lute Morris and W. H. Odell called me out into the bar room and showed be a petition they had drawn up for the organization of the county and the appointment of county commissioners and county clerk. It had my name on for commissioner and I tried in vain to have them change it for another but they asked me how I liked the remainder of the ticket. After changing one, we laid our plans for organization and then being warned that it was very late in the night, we all went to bed, I staying at the hotel. On March 15th and 16th we circulated the petition, got it signed and the papers all made out. We had the people with us and not a man refused to sign the petition. Of course, as it was intended to be a quiet move, we did not



Residence Built by D. N. Heizer in Great Bend Which Later  
Became the Nucleus of the St. Rose Hospital

week in March all feared that it was doing its deadly work as we could see plainly that Captain Ellinwood was very friendly to Zarah and its proprietor. We did not know any more about town building than Tite did and supposed the chief engineer might be the whole "push." There was Tite's mistake; he depended upon his hospitable entertainment of the engineer corps too much, instead of going to headquarters. Archie Williams, who was interested in the Great Bend Town Company, knew a thing or two and I have always given him the credit for bringing about the deal between the Quincy people and the railroad company.

The first week in March, 1872, the officials of the Great Bend Town Company came on the ground and started a complete survey of section 28, town 19, range 13, with the announcement that they had formed a combination with the railroad company. They employed E. B. Cowgill as surveyor and proceeded at once to business, and this fact coupled

present it to anyone for signature we had any doubt about being in full sympathy with Great Bend for the county seat.

On March 18th, Lute Morris went to Topeka to present the papers in person to Gov. James Harvey, who was the governor of Kansas and whose duty it was to act upon the petition. In about two days he returned post-haste, having found on his arrival at Topeka, that a new law had been made by the legislature during the winter, providing that a census taker should be appointed in organizing a new county and that it should be his duty to find six hundred inhabitants therein before the governor could name temporary county officers and county seat. This new law had just been published and gone into effect, and he at once returned to make a new start before the Zarahites should get ahead of us. He came after me in the evening at my dugout on Walnut creek; we went over to the Great Bend Hotel and got the petition ready and concluded that we would have the papers ready for



him to take the train at Ellsworth the next evening at six o'clock, as we learned the Zarah people were making a move. I rode all that night to get the requisite number of signatures and by noon of the next day, the petition was ready to go. Lute took it and drove to Ellsworth, a distance of fifty miles, in six hours, and caught the train. This was on March 21, 1872, for I was appointed census taker in and for Barton county, on the following day. On March 29th, I went over to Great Bend and there learned our petition had reached the governor first and E. L. Morphy and I secured a buggy and drove to Zarah and found my commission from James M. Harvey, as census taker, with instructions to proceed at once to enumerate the inhabitants of Barton County. We now had victory in our grasp if we could but find the six hundred inhabitants. Fortunately, we had a hotel register and grading

three dollar setting of Black Cochon eggs and then deliberately gone to sleep right in the middle of my sole and only bed. After surveying this sublimity of nerve, I noticed on my buffalo settee, a pair of trousers, then I was aroused to self again and with the point of a Navy 44, I punched this intruder and to my great surprise, it proved to be Tom McCaughan, my future brother-in-law, who afterward went with me and helped in my census work and who also became a great favorite with the buffalo hunters as he was afraid of nothing; always genial and pleasant, a good cook, good story teller and all round good fellow. The Indians always called him "Man-Squaw" because of his clean, rosy face and long curly hair. Had Tom staid on the plains, he would have made a character for a book of adventures as he was always falling into the most thrilling experiences.



Last Sod House in Barton County. North of Pawnee Rock

camp were being established every day to do grading work on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad and the prairie schooners of the homesteaders were all coming to our assistance, six hundred strong.

On Saturday, March 30, I began taking the census. In the evening I came home to my dugout about ten o'clock and found a light in the window. I peeped in very cautiously and somebody was in my bed, and it looked like a rosy cheeked, curly headed girl, who was sleeping very peacefully in the only bed on the plantation; here was a fine kettle of fish - what right could this intruding young lady have for absolutely taking possession of the only home I had on earth? There were dying embers in the fireplace and egg shells scattered over the hearth. She had made herself comfortable with fire from my Sunday wood and appeased her prairie appetite with a

Monday morning, April 1st, Tom and I started out on census business, went to Great Bend and found some men who wanted to go six miles west to find their land and locate building places. We went and showed them their lines and then went to Pawnee Rock and enumerated the Kentucky colony. This was a colony of young men, brought out under the leadership of Geo. M. Jackson, Hon. E. W. Hoch and brother, of Marion, Kansas, who were members of this colony. They had already put up a frame house on the townsite of Pawnee Rock and Geo. Jackson, in his earnest, assuring manner, announced that Pawnee Rock was going to make a great place, for "Don't you see," he said, "it is geographically situated and historically known." They were a bright, enterprising lot of young men and it would be interesting to know where they all are now. After partaking of a camp

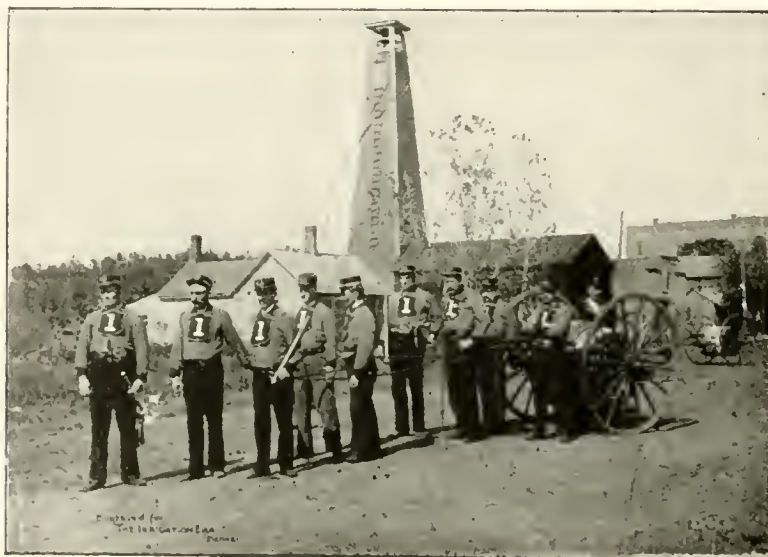


meal with them, we went north to Walnut creek to section 10, northwest quarter township 18, range 14, where we stayed all night with Levi H. Lusk, who had built a nice little frame house. Next morning, April 2nd, we went up the creek to the county line, enumerating all as we went; where we took dinner with another tribe of bachelors. We came back down the creek a few miles to section 26, township 18, range 15, where we staid all night at Bill Atchison's camp with another tribe of Bachelors. Bill had located there with forty Texas cow boys whom he was trying to domesticate. He had laid aside his religion, temporarily, during the domesticating process. Bill was an exception of a cat-

iness man in Denver, Colorado. On section 10, Henry Schultz and his family; John Reincke and family and Bill Bahler. On section 14, Robert Gibson.

Most all of the early settlers were young, married men and old bachelors. When a new caravan would come in, these single-blessed creatures would almost ask in chorus, "Have they any gals?" Fortunate was the homesteader who had a "gal" in the family. He could command the best we all had of everything.

The following offices were held by D. N. Heizer while he was a resident of Barton County:



One of Great Bend's Volunteer Fire Companies

tle man. You could get milk at his camp; he would have it and he would lasso a Texas cow and get it.

Milk was a part of his hospitality and that made Bill's camp famous in the valley. The rule in cattle camps was, the more cattle they had the scarcer were milk and butter. Bill made no pretensions to either, but you could always get a good drink of milk. In this camp were Chas. Worden, Henry Kellar, Mr. Brining, Mr. Albright and Charlie Roubush. Lower down in the edge of section 18-14, were Nate Field and Geo. Berry. Still farther down were some German families. On section 3 was Mr. Mecklin and his son and Antone Wilke, who is now a prosperous bus-

First notary public commissioned in the county. Commission dates January 9, 1872, issued to D. N. Heizer and signed by James M. Harvey, governor and W. N. Smallwood, secretary of state.

Appointed as census taker of Barton County to take census for organization of county, March 22, 1872, by Gov. James M. Harvey.

Elected July 5th, 1872 to office of probate judge of Barton County.

Elected November 5th, 1872 to office of register of deeds of Barton County.

Rail road assessor of 4th judicial district, composed of the counties of Barton, Ellsworth, Ellis, Lincoln, McPherson, Russell, Saline and Wallace. Commission signed by W.

N. Smallwood, secretary of state.

Appointed deputy county surveyor, July 13th, 1872, by John Favrow, county surveyor.

Appointed city treasurer of Great Bend, Kansas, July 14th, 1874, by Samuel Maher, mayor.

Elected November 2nd, 1880, to office of representative of the 120th district, Barton County.

Appointed April 2nd, 1881, Member republican state central committee of Kansas, J. B. Johnson, chairman.

Appointed 27th of June, 1883, appraiser of Ft. Larned Reservation by secretary of interior, U. S.

Elected 1886 to office of mayor of Great Bend, Kansas.



Residence of Ferdinand C. Maneth (See page 188)

## Extracts From an Old Diary Kept by D. N. Heizer, 1871-72

Oct. 2, 1871—Went out to see the Pawnee Indians and traveled all day on the trail with them. Bought one pony and had a merry time with the Indians. Stayed all night at Landon's Ranch on the Smoky River.

Nov. 14, 1871—Up in the morning early, traps together, we set sail with three yokes of bulls to a bull wagon, Henry Huffines principal "whacker." Company consisted of Charlie Prescott, George N. Moses, (commonly called Mose,) Henry Huffines, Albert B. Robinson (Bob) and D. N. Heizer. After a drive of a few miles with no excitement, we pitched our camp at what is known as the "12-Mile Timber" on the Arkansas. Here Charles, an unerring rifleman, shed the first blood for the

Lording it over them, who, from the bregue on his tongue and the limburger expression on his countenance was evidently of Teutonic origin. His wagon was freighted with flour, bacon, some farming and cooking utensils, a pig in a box,—these making his sole earthly possessions. Behind, with slow and measured pace, in keeping with the gait of the oxen, came his loving frau, bare-headed and bare-footed. They halted and after a few inquiries of me concerning the land of their destination, they kept on their way toward the Star of the Empire. This was the last I saw of the Teutonic Tinker and his gentle Frau for more than a week when I was again returning to Ellsworth. Away out on the wild prairie, out



Old Congregational Church, Great Bend

company by slaying a swan, a beautiful bird and we ate it. I committed the next murder, which, need not be told, it could be smelled.

Sunday, Oct. 29, 1871—Rev. D. J. Glenn, a Presbyterian minister, preached at J. H. Hubbard's. He came last week with a large family and they are occupying my dugout temporarily. He was robbed of what little money he had on his way out. He lived at Meridian, Miss., several years, but being a Pennsylvanian, the Ku Klux made it too uncomfortable for him in the south.

Was on my way to Ellsworth when in hills three miles out of Ellsworth I met a muley ox team. A short, fair haired man was

of sight of house, friends or anything, save buffalo or antelope, stood the tinker's muley team, and there too, stood the tinker. They had started across the Cheyenne Bottoms, the oxen had given out, and growing discouraged, had given a long look homeward and were now trying to urge the oxen in that direction. He told me his sorrowful story. There sat his frau, weeping and bitterly reproaching her lord for having brought her into that wild country and meekly he sat on his wagon tongue like longour on an hour glass, timing the duration of woe. I condoled and encouraged them and to some purpose, as I put them on a plan to get back on the road and they finally landed safely in the valley and look

up a homestead on section 20-18-13. Soon after their arrival, a son was born to them, the first white child born in the county. Nick was a bugler and the next morning after the arrival of the boy, there rang out through the valley, every bugle call known to the bugle and then some. He was the wildest Dutchman in American.

Nov. 15, 1871—Broke camp in the morning and jogged along on our way. Weather clear with cool breeze from southwest. Passed Pawnee Rock about noon. (Said Rock named from a fight the Pawnees had at that place.) Arkansas Valley very flat and low on the left. Came to Boyd & Beal's Ranch and stayed over night.

Nov. 16, 1871—Went to Ft. Larned and laid in more supplies and in the afternoon went on to the river and camped on the old Sully Trail. Day bright and clear until late that night.

Nov. 17, 1871—Awakened before daybreak and heard the gentle patter of rain, first from the southwest, but while getting breakfast, it wheeled around to the north. Rained all forenoon, then began a sleet which finally ended in a snow. During this cold, bleak rain, we sat around, stood around and stamped around. Getting colder, we took off our boots, packed our pedestals in a heap and packed a blanket about them—Sang songs, told stories and made merry. After noon it began to sleet and Chas. Henry and I took the cattle and drove them back to the Boyd Ranch, where we stayed all night in a hard crowd of bull whackers and buffalo hunters.

Saturday, Nov. 18, 1871—Still housed in the ranch and still a fearful storm is raging. Around some are smoking, some playing cards and others reading newspapers, such as you find at Western ranches being "The Day's Doings," "Sporting Times," etc. One thing favorable, no whiskey.

Sunday, Nov. 19, 1871—Spent the day on the ranch. In the morning "Mose" and "Bob" came in from the camp after a lay-a-bed of forty-eight hours. Henry and Charles then went down, the storm being over. The boys at the ranch spent the day in playing cards and vulgar jesting. Three of them gambled all night.

Monday, November 20, 1871—In the morning "Mose" and I set out for the camp and on our way, saw three buffalo lying on the river bank. We went to camp, found Henry and Charles all right, took some cartridges, crawled down along the river bank and killed three bulls. Skinned and cut them up. Took some meat to camp, cooked it in skunk oil and ate our fill. At night we came back to the ranch.

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1871—Went out again from ranch and "Mose" killed two more buffalo. We then went to camp, got dinner, skinned the two buffalo that "Mose" had killed Sunday morning, got supper and started back to ranch. Came by and skinned the two he had killed in the morning and came on in. For the last few days weather moderately

warm, some clouds but thawing.

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 1871—Started home on old "Satanta" but it was very cold and he could not travel, so I turned back, took the team out and we gathered up the load to start home the next day.

Thursday, Nov. 23, 1871—Started home and got as far as the old "12-Mile Timber" on the Arkansas and camped at Boyd & Beal's hay train camp. Came in late at night, cold and the wolves made music with their howling.

Friday, Nov. 24, 1871—Kept camp. Took breakfast at 12 M. and started on a hunt. "Mose and I" killed one buffalo and put out wolf bait. "Ike" (one of the hay train men) killed a mess of grouse and quail.

Saturday, Nov. 25, 1871—Came home by night time and lay our booty down, tired and weary, glad the trip was over.

Sunday, Nov. 26, 1871—Henry, Charles and I spent the day at Capt. Rogers. Enjoyed a wild turkey with him. Bitter cold and stormy.

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 1871—Bill showing prices:

|                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 gallon molasses.....           | \$1.25 |
| 6 2-3 lbs. sugar.....            | 1.00   |
| 5 bushels corn at \$1.25.....    | 6.25   |
| 1 pair gloves.....               | 3.25   |
| 4 lbs. lard.....                 | 1.00   |
| 12 lbs. butter at 35c.....       | 4.20   |
| 1-4 bushel apples.....           | .60    |
| Buffalo meat 3 cents per lb..... |        |

Monday, Dec. 25, 1871—First dance in Barton County. During the day nothing of interest occurred, excepting that a party and dance which had been intended by the settlers, was given up on account of bad weather. Mr. Buckby invited a few of us to come down to Zarah and eat oysters and dance. Capt. Ruger and wife, Logan Reynolds and wife and daughter, Ed Reynolds, wife and daughter, E. J. Dodge, wife, son and two daughters, Ed Dewey and wife, John Light and Miss Josie Cunningham were of those attending a good supper and dance all night and Christmas was duly celebrated.

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1872—First "candy pulling" in Barton County. 12 M. tonight I am all alone in front of my own fire place for the first time as an actual resident of my own house. Have been spending the evening at Mr. Hubbard's to a "candy pulling."

Sunday, Feb. 4, 1872—Cold and stormy. Alone in the dugout all morning. Dressed up to stay at home. People are concerned about what the Indians will do in the spring. Jack Jamison has just been down among the Osages and Kiowas and thinks they will be hostile in the spring.

Wednesday, Feb. 7th, 1872—Exploits of the "Great Buffalo Trio," Chas. Prescott, E. W. Morphy and I started for a hunt. Camped in the evening at 12-Mile Timber. Fair weather and we sat around our bright, blazing campfire and gazed on the starry heavens. We poetized, moralized, sang songs, and our gallant Morphy was unmindful of the saying



"Laugh and grow fat," excited our risibles by all sorts of comic scenes from his stock of theatricals. We lay down after smoking the pipe of peace and slept. But lo, in the dead hours of the night, Morphy, feeling the heat at his toes, raised the cry of fire. Our bed was ablaze and we presented a word spectacle as we had to hustle and put it out. It would have done for the witch scene in Richard III.

Up in the morning early, had breakfast and went south. What a country we saw. Range after range of sand hills, barren and desolate. No tree in sight. A long, weary drive and we reached Rattlesnake creek, where our spirits were revived by the sight of a herd of buffalo. Charles and Morphy tried to steal up to them but the flatness of the country was against them. It being night, we pitched our camp on the wild, desolate prairie and here we sat, our horses tied to the back of the wagon, our bed made beside it on the ground. Alongside is our camp fire of buffalo chips. Charles has retired and Morphy, with the ease and comfort of a King in his Palace, sits on a stick and smokes his pipe, while "Dick Turpin," my dog, races back and forth after the wolves prowling around our camp. We have formed our plan of attack and with the rising sun, the ball will open.

Friday, Feb. 9, 1872—While eating our breakfast, the impudent wolves came in numbers within two hundred yards of the camp. "Dick Turpin" ran out at them and at one time, formed an interesting tableau. Three stood in a row, stone still, while he stood a few paces from them, intently eyeing them, each afraid of the other. How they dared each other. After breakfast, we sat out after buffalo and Morphy and I chased them on foot all day long with ill luck. They were very wild and we only succeeded in wounding a few. Late in the evening, he and Charles killed an old bull; we took his pelt, cut his liver out, cut it in chunks an inch square, seasoned each with strychnine and distributed them about his remains for wolf bait. Camped near by for the night, and such wailing and howling was never heard before.

Found eleven dead wolves within fifty feet of His Majesty's carcass and there would have been more had there been more bait. Again we renewed the chase; Charles took a horse and killed a cow that had been wounded the day before; rain set in and we, with our meat, started on our hunt for timber. Drove about ten miles, facing a bleak, cold rain and getting colder, down came the snow; no tree appeared and our team being tired, we halted and fixed for the storm. Tried to cook in the wagon box by building a fire in the Dutch oven. No go! Sheltered it and cooked a meal outside, after which we went to bed in order to keep warm. A cold north wind howled all night so did the wolves although we did get some sleep.

Sunday, Feb. 11, 1872—After breakfast, three men came to our camp with them. We drove back to the hunting ground and killed

three fine buffalo that evening. We sold our coyote pelts for 65 cents each.

Thursday, Feb. 15, 1872—Reached the Arkansas river by noon, fed our teams and started across with half our load. The last two days thawing had started the ice in the river and today it again turned cold with a gale from the northwest. Great chunks of ice were floating and the river seemed to be rising. Got in the main current and horses mired in the quicksand. I had to plunge out into the icy water up to my arm pits, loose the horses from the wagon, turn them over to get their feet loose from the quicksand and then go to Great Bend, where I got Louis Frey with his team of mules, to come and help pull us out. All this time, I left Charles and Morphy sitting in the wagon in the middle of the river. I was mad at them because they would not get out in the water and help me. My clothes froze stiff on me but after we got the load over, I trotted all the way home, five miles, behind the wagon to keep warm. Got home late in the evening.

"Labor omnia vincit improbus."

Went to Sunday school. It was a pleasant day and everybody was out and glad to see me back to lead the music. Mr. A. C. Moses, who came with his family from New York and built the first frame house in the county, and who was the Sunday school superintendent, asked some questions on the lesson—the subject being, "The Brazen Serpent and the Healing of Children of Israel." He asked in what respect we were like the children of Israel and his wife, who was not partial to frontier life answered, "In that we are in a wilderness and dissatisfied with our lot." It created a great deal of merriment. She is a cultured woman and has never before seen any frontier life. Went to Great Bend Hotel where a new family had taken possession, by the name of Stone and who had also started a store.

NOTE—(Out of this first Sunday school established by these good people grew the First Congregational Church of Great Bend.)

Monday, Feb. 19 1872—I hunted my cattle and started to plow for Uncle Dick Demis at \$5.00 per acre. Plowing by myself with two yoke of Texas cattle I found not calculated to cultivate the most elegant manner or style of expression. The leaders would turn and look at me and the furrows were very crooked.

(NOTE—I think this the first land broken in Barton County.)

Thursday, Feb. 22, 1872—Went to a ball given by Tom Stone at the Great Bend Hotel, a party of pleasant people and a good time. After plowing prairie all day with two yoke of Texas cattle, just the thing to go to a ball and ease my mind. I danced like a good fellow. I shined my boots and wore a stand-up collar. I danced with every lady there and some of them, two or three times. We danced quadrilles and the Virginia Reel. Got home very late.

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 1872—Bad day. Got Hubbard interested in going to Topeka to find out

what the railroad was going to do in regard to building the town. Whether it was going to favor Zarah or Great Bend. Also to try to secure the agency for selling their lands for him and me. I secured the first notary commission in the county.

First Notary Commission D. N. Heizer, January, 1872.

Saturday, Dec. 16, 1871.

#### FIRST SCHOOL MEETING IN BARTON COUNTY.

Tonight we had a school meeting and next week our school house will be built, after the school meeting closed we had a meeting to determine what we should do for Christmas. Concluded to have a general meeting of the settlers. Have one grand supper, social and dance. The supper to represent all the different kinds of game the country afforded. We will have it at the New Hotel, which is about completed at Great Bend. A committee on arrangements was appointed, consisting of six ladies and five gentlemen, myself being one of the number.

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1872—I am somewhat anxious about the Indians in the spring. We are on the extreme frontier and if there is any trouble, we must suffer first, being the most exposed. If they are disposed to be ugly, there is nothing to prevent them from attacking us. Within the last few days we have had reports that they have driven some of the settlers out of the country south of us. As soon as grass comes so that ponies can live, they may try us. We now get mail at Zarah most every week. It is a new office and there was no regular mail carrier.

Tuesday, April 23, 1872—We have had a lively day in town today. A great many new men came in and thirteen business sites were chosen since noon. I have been busy as a bee with the lumber trade and directing men where to find claims. At the rate the town is going now, we will have quite a place by next fall. It already makes quite a showing and every day records a new house.

Friday, May 3, 1872—How this week has gone. Have been as busy as a bee all the time. We have sold a great deal of lumber this week to put into houses at Great Bend. There are now some very good ones being built in town. Monday I went two miles to survey and did not get back until late at night. Tuesday I went eight miles and located four men and was late in getting home again. That evening, April 31st, there was a horrible murder committed at Zarah. Zake Light, a clerk and brother-in-law of Mr. Buckley, who was about eighteen years of age, shot a young man who had been here two weeks looking for land. He went into the store in the evening and asked for some crackers and cheese. Zake gave him the crackers but said they had no cheese. The young man made a joking remark about such a store keeping nothing to eat. Zake was insulted and ordered him out of the store. He refused to go and Zake shot him through the head. It was unprovoked and

Zake ought to be hung if it was right for any man to be hung.

Monday, May 6, 1872—Today I have been out on the range surveying. When I got back to town in the evening, Capt. Heath of the Santa Fe engineer corps, told me of having seen three hundred Arapahoes and Cheyennes within about thirty miles of here, he was in their camp and talked to them and says they are disposed to be sulky and mad. Have no squaws, lodges or dogs with them and are well armed and well mounted, and he thinks we are going to have trouble. He is acquainted with a great many of them and says they mean no good. This valley is beginning to look like a little Paradise, with its green waving grass and blooming flowers.

Friday, May 16, 1872—Went up to the west line of the county to where an old German couple live. His wife cannot talk English, but they both thing a good deal of me and when I go there she always wants to talk with me and has to talk in German to her husband and he interprets it in English to me, she never knew until today that I had no Frou and when I told her she said I ought to be ashamed of myself. The old gentleman said, "You brings de Frou mit de dugout first, and ven you makes more money you makes un better house, und makes un better Frou." It is worth riding eighteen miles just to hear othese old people talk and see how happy and contentedly they live in a dug-out.

Monday, May 20, 1872—We moved today to the town of Great Bend to live. Tom and I shall continue to dwell here henceforth.

Wednesday, May 22, 1872—All week we have been kept busy with settlers and locating land and have put several men on the lookout. Would have taken some men out today, but that Walnut is on a bender and cannot be crossed except by swimming. We had some sport today. Just before noon two buffalo came just in sight of town, and in less than ten minutes every horse in the livery barn was out in pursuit or rather, to meet them. After they had chased them out of sight seven more buffalo came into the Walnut north of town. Everybody, including women and children, came out in a stampede to see the fun. A skirmish line of men with guns started out on foot. I seized an Indian pony, belonging to Mr. Hubbard which was hitched outside the store, and after giving Mr. Hubbard by pocket book to take care of, off I went with a needle gun on the pony. I soon got beyond the footmen and away I went for the burly old fellows across the Bottoms. When about one-fourth of a mile from them, they turned and ran northeast toward the bend of the creek. I was lucky enough to shoot one just as he was going down into the creek. Hubbard, the trustee of my pocket book, lost \$5.00 of my money on my success. There was a big crowd standing in the northern part of town watching me, and Jack Conkle pulled out a bill and wanted to bet I would get one and Hubbard took him up.

Sunday, May 26, 1872—This is a hot, sultry day. My first Sunday as a resident of the town of Great Bend, a city now of over forty houses. Most all having been built during the last six weeks. My census report was received and accepted by the governor and we have just had our county clerk and commissioner appointed and now in about thirty days, we will hold an election. Several of the leading citizens have been at me to run for probate judge. Have not yet made up my mind whether I will or not.

Sunday, June 2, 1872—Dr. Truesdale just came rushing up stairs and wanted to get the keys to Dr. Baker's desk as he wanted his case of instruments. A man at the hotel had shot himself and he must help him. Dr. Baker had gone to Quincy and taken his keys with him and the only thing to do was to break open his desk, which we did and have since performed the operation by way of extracting the ball. He was intoxicated and was fooling with a six-shooter when it went off, shooting him through the left side, the ball lodging in his back. Poor fellow, he should have learned when he was a little boy that it was very naughty to play with fire arms and get drunk on Sunday.

This morning I drove over to Hubbard's to Sunday school with Jake Miller, our new photographer. We had some new recruits at Sunday school. Last week I went from ten to forty miles per day; we have been having competition now in another land firm. One of their firm is agent for a town company and last Wednesday we had some little excitement over their movements. It became known they had formed another company to start another town fourteen miles west of this place and men who had invested money here could not see how they could run two towns in the same locality and be true to the interests of both. The citizens got up a petition for their removal from the agency for this town. Said petition was being carried around and everybody was signing it when the gentlemen got sight of it. They tried to tear it up but did not succeed. A crowd collected and very exciting was the talk. Hubbard made some rather sarcastic remarks, as was his custom, and Morris struck him. Hubbard kicked Morris out of doors and there the matter ended. A meeting was called and said gents tried to explain their connection with the Pawnee Town Company but did not do so to their satisfaction. First the citizens voted to send me to Quincy, Ill., to see the Town Company of this place and have them come out here to look after the interests of this town. After talking the matter over more fully, concluded as Dr. Baker was going back on the next day, a letter should be written to the company, stating the facts and send it by Dr. Baker.

Saturday, June 8th, 1872—I have had a busy week and the prospect of a day's rest so near at hand, is refreshing. I am always away all day long; get home late in the evening and am generally tired and hungry and have a

whole raft of papers to make out, or letters to write, to some one wanting to come west, or inquiring about homesteads, etc. The people here seem to be very much dissatisfied with the way the affairs are conducted by the town company and there is so much bickering that I am almost disgusted. "I am somewhat in doubt about these mushroom towns, as some call them. I do think this (Great Bend) will some day make a fine town; it has the country to support it but it is now stepping far in advance of the country and men are investing widely, expecting to make their fortunes out of the cattle trade this summer. I really think from present prospects that it will not amount to anything great for this point. Some days here, everybody seems to be excited and carried away by some influence almost unaccountable, and other days everything will be dull and everybody discouraged and despondent.

Friday, June 13, 1872.

#### THE FIRST CITY CAUCUS.

Have been in Great Bend all day, busy in the lumber yard. In the evening attended the city caucus for the nomination of city officers for Great Bend. Not being able to claim my residence in the city, (having a claim outside the city limits), I took no part in the city caucus. (My recollection is, that this caucus was held in a frame building on Allen's corner or near that place.)

Saturday, June 5, 1872—Today I worked at the lumber yard until noon and then drove with Tom to the eastern part of the county to attend a township convention. Drove home in the coal of the evening, got our supper and then went down to see Morris about election matters, as the county election was coming on and we were all interested in working for Great Bend as the county seat. In this interest, I had made a visit to the township convention in the eastern part of the county.

Monday, June 17, 1872.

#### THE FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL ORGANIZED AT GREAT BEND.

In the morning, John Favrow, one of the railroad engineers, asked me to take him over to Hubbard's to Sunday school, where we stayed until after dinner. We drove back to Great Bend and at four o'clock we attended the organization of the first Sunday school at Great Bend. In the evening we took supper with Mr. W. H. Odell, our nominee for county clerk, at his home.

Wednesday, June 19, 1872.

#### OUR FIRST COUNTY CONVENTION.

Our county convention came off today and we made our nominations. I was honored with the nomination for clerk of the district court, which was afterward changed to the office of probate judge. I was secretary of the convention. I am feeling very much flattered by the people telling me that I could have any office I desired. We had a great time. A clique of the more adventurous class tried to run the meeting by tricks and fraudulent vot-



ing but we managed to out number them sufficiently and fought them clear back into their seats. Being unexperienced in politics, I was very much displeased at the methods attempted.

I have begun the erection of a house on block 95, which is 16x24 in size and one story high.

Wednesday, June 24, 1872—Am a little discouraged about this country here of late. It has been very hot and dry now for some time and there is so little farming being done in proportion to the number of settlers that it does not look right. People do not seem to have the faith in the country that they should have. Perhaps I am giving way to temporary influences and something may occur to banish all my fears. Another thing, we have a very tough class of people coming in here along with the good; a class that have no respect for virtue, morality, decency or anything else. It is true, there are many refined and cultivated people coming with the idea of permanently making their homes and it almost looks now as though they might be out numbered by the other class.

Sunday, June 30, 1872—During the past three days, I have ridden over one hundred and fifty miles canvassing the county in the interest of our county election, and particularly in the interest of Great Bend as our county seat. All has been rush and hurry with us for the last few days.

Monday, July 1, 1872—Our county election came off today and it has been a lively day and a day of anxiety as to the contest over the county seat. I acted as one of the clerks of the election from 8 o'clock in the morning until after 2 o'clock at night. All passed off quietly and in good order and the results were very satisfactory. Our town, Great Bend, has nearly 100 majority for county seat. I received about 150 majority for probate judge. We had a great deal of sport over the election and some of those in the habit of imbibing, tonight made merry music on the street in exaltation over our great success.

Wednesday, July 3, 1872—According to instructions, Miss Ida Mitchell and I, as a committee to select picnic grounds for the 4th of July, went on a trip up the Walnut Valley

seven or eight miles. We finally selected suitable grounds for our first 4th of July celebration at a bend of the creek on the south-east quarter of section 10-19-14, the claim of Henry Shultz. On the way up the creek we had a chase after a bunch of buffalo.

Thursday, July 4th, 1872—Most everybody went up the creek to our 4th of July celebration grounds in buggies, wagons and on horseback. There was quite a respectable crowd of us. We hung swings in the trees for the children and young folks and had plenty of ice cream and lemonade, and a bountiful dinner. After dinner I read the Declaration of Independence and E. W. Cowgill made a speech. We then had singing and a general good time, after which we all went home. The day was ideal and was very pleasantly spent. We had a delightful place for the celebration, which was the first one ever held in the county, unless by the Indians.

Saturday, July 6th, 1872—In the evening a gentleman called at the store and asked for me. I went down and found there a law student from Iowa City, who was there the last year I was. That was the first appearance of George W. Nimocks, who was touring the state in a wagon with a camping outfit and who had established his camp near the south-east corner of the public square.

Sunday, July 7, 1872—I am considering a trip to Iowa very soon on very important business. The railroad will be completed to that place by the last of next week and I will be able to make the trip from my own town on the frontier by rail. I feel very much elated over this fact. Just to think how a person must feel, having come here only one year ago when the country was almost as wild as the day it was made, inhabited solely by the wild game of the plains and now the iron horse is about to come dashing in, bringing all the changes of civilization. Bringing stout hearts and sturdy hands to subdue these wild prairies and make them contribute to the advancement and welfare of mankind. "'Tis strange! 'Tis strange, how quickly all this has come about."

Friday, July 12, 1872—I have concluded to go to Iowa as soon as possible and if nothing prevents, will be there during the week, probably about Thursday.



Santa Fe Depot, Great Bend





Residence of Andrew J. Deckert (See page 123)

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Residence of Carl Schneider, South Bend Township

## T. L. STONE

THE subject of this sketch was one of the early settlers in Barton County, and a man almost intimately acquainted with all of our citizens, a brief account of his life will be appreciated by our readers.

Thomas Longdon Stone was born near Lexington, Ky., June 27, 1830, only lacking a few days of being 48 years old at the time of his death, June 2, 1887. When about 7 years old his parents moved to Paris, Mo., living there about five years, when they returned to their old home in Kentucky, where they remained

two years kept a dry goods store and was proprietor of the Drover's Cottage, the first hotel in this place, later the Southern. He afterward opened a meat market which he operated successfully for about two years, when he went to farming. He had 240 acres of land about 9 miles south of Great Bend, nearly all of which is in cultivation. He leaves a wife and three children, the oldest being the wife of Sheriff Winstead, Mrs. Crain and Josie, a little girl. Three daughters and two sons died when quite young.



T. L. Stone

Proprietor of Great Bend's First Hotel

until 1849, when they returned to Missouri, making their home in Shelby County. On the 12th of September, 1849, T. L. Stone was married to Miss Jane W. McCracken, with whom he lived happily until his death. In 1852, during the gold excitement, Mr. Stone went to California, where he spent two years in the gold mines, and accumulated some money. He traveled all over that state and like all the early emigrants, endured many hardships, and doubtless contracted rheumatic afflictions there, from which he never entirely recovered, and which laid the foundation for other bodily infirmities. He came to Great Bend in 1872, being one of the first settlers, and for

For the last two years, Mr. Stone's health had been gradually but steadily falling, and though every attention was given him he found but temporary relief. He died of general dropsy.

The Odd Fellows of this place took part in the burial ceremonies, showing that respect which was due to the deceased both as a citizen and former member of the order.

The deceased was a man of many excellent traits of character, a warm friend, genial and happy in disposition, and generous to a fault. The community deeply sympathize with the grief-stricken family and relatives, in their hour of suffering. "Earth hath no sorrow that Heaven cannot cure."

## PATENT ISSUED FOR CITY OF GREAT BEND

During the summer of 1872 Great Bend was organized as a city of the third class with A. A. Hurd as mayor. In September, 1872, final proof was made and a patent for section 28 issued to the mayor in trust for the use and benefit of the occupants. These, under the laws of Kansas, were considered to be the Great Bend Town Company, most of whom resided at Quincy, Ill. Accordingly a deed was made to said town company \* by the mayor. The U. S. courts afterward decided that the provision making a non-resident town company occupants was not in keeping with and according to the spirit of the law of congress and that the deed must be made by the mayor to each of the actual occupants, according to his respective interest. Accordingly, suit was brought by the occupants against the Great Bend Town Company to set aside the deed from the mayor to them. However, a compromise was effected wherein it was agreed that a decree should be entered setting aside said deed, and the mayor should proceed to appoint commissioners to divide the property according to law, giving to each actual occupant his quota of lots, and that each occupant should

deed one-half of the same to the Great Bend Town Company. Thus the question of title was settled, and each occupant found himself to be a great deal richer than he had supposed.

\*The officers and stockholders of the company, as appears from the Arkansas Valley, published in July, 1872, were as follows:

Officers . . . . .  
 J. L. Curtis, President, Keokuk, Iowa.  
 M. F. Bassett, M. D., Vice-President, Quincy, Illinois.  
 C. R. S. Curtis, M. D., Corresponding Secretary, Quincy, Illinois.  
 Directors . . . . .  
 Hon. D. L. Lakin, Land Commissioner A., T. & S. F. R. R., Topeka, Kansas.  
 Hon. T. J. Peter, General Manager A., T. & S. R. R., Topeka, Kansas.  
 Hon. A. L. Williams, Attorney of Company, Topeka, Kansas.  
 Additional stockholders . . . . .  
 James Israel, Esq., Mt. Vernon, O., Judge  
 T. J. Mitchell, Quincy, Ill., Rev. R. F. Shinn,  
 Paysor, Ill., Rev. W. E. Johnson, Jacksonville,  
 Ill., T. L. Morris, Great Bend, Kansas, Hon.  
 John T. Morten, Topeka, Kansas.

## MAYORS OF GREAT BEND

A complete list of the men who served the city of Great Bend as its chief executive from 1872 to 1912:

| Name—                        | Date.         |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| A. A. Hurd . . . . .         | 1872 and 1873 |
| Samuel Maher . . . . .       | 1874          |
| Richard Taylor . . . . .     | 1875          |
| C. F. Diffenbacher . . . . . | 1876          |
| A. C. Fair . . . . .         | 1877          |
| G. N. Moses . . . . .        | 1878          |
| A. W. Gray . . . . .         | 1879          |
| E. L. Chapman . . . . .      | 1880          |
| Henry Kline . . . . .        | 1881          |
| J. V. Brinkman . . . . .     | 1882          |
| G. W. Nimocks . . . . .      | 1883          |

E. W. Moses . . . . . 1884 and 1885  
 D. N. Heizer . . . . . 1886  
 After 1886 mayors were elected for two-year terms.

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| A. J. Buckland . . . . .  | 1887 |
| O. B. Wilson . . . . .    | 1889 |
| A. Laidlaw . . . . .      | 1891 |
| G. N. Moses . . . . .     | 1895 |
| G. N. Moses . . . . .     | 1897 |
| G. H. Hulme . . . . .     | 1899 |
| L. P. Aber . . . . .      | 1901 |
| Martin Weirauch . . . . . | 1903 |
| E. W. Moses . . . . .     | 1905 |
| E. W. Moses . . . . .     | 1907 |
| E. W. Moses . . . . .     | 1909 |
| O. W. Dawson . . . . .    | 1911 |



Birdseye View of Great Bend

## BARTON COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

IN the early days of Barton County it was a sportsman's paradise, but after the extermination of the buffaloes and antelopes from this part of the state, hunters were compelled to be satisfied with quail, prairie chickens and water fowl. Each year when the ducks and geese and other migratory birds pass over this part of the country in the spring and fall, many of them stop and are found on the marshes, creeks and rivers in large numbers. The people of Barton County are hunters by heredity because of the fact that the first settlers in this section depended a great deal on their prowess with the gun for their food. In 1905 a number of the citizens of the county got together and organized the Barton County Sportsmen's Association, the

object being to maintain hunting privileges in different parts of the county. The organization was a success from the beginning and it now controls the hunting privileges on about six sections of land in the Cheyenne Bottoms which is but a short distance northeast of Great Bend. Here the ducks and other water fowls are found in large numbers at certain times of the year and here the members of the organization enjoy what many believe to be the grandest of all sports. The officers of the organization are C. D. Spaugh, president; Lester Cox, secretary and treasurer, and these together with E. W. Seward, Ben McMullen and C. W. Scherzer form the board of directors. The association now has about 125 members.



## JOHN WEST PASCOE

PROMINENT among the really old timers of Barton County is John West Pascoe who came here at a time when the county was just in the beginning of its history. He was born in Cornwall, England, October 28, 1833. He came to America May 8, 1856, and landed at Philadelphia. From there he went to Ontonagan County, Michigan, and from there came to the State of Kansas and arrived in Russell County April 19, 1871, and from there came to Barton County in July of the same year. He located on the west line of Great Bend township, the land comprising the northwest quarter of section 18. He went back to Michigan June 2, 1872, where he remained until July 19, 1873. He located in Eureka township and until 1903 was actively engaged in farming. In that year he retired and now lives in Great Bend at 1607 Williams street where he has a neat comfortable home. He was married January 26, 1854 to Miss Grace

Dyer. To this union there were born seven children, five of whom are living. Elizabeth and Clara are both dead, and those living are as follows. Paul is farming in this county and is mentioned in another part of this book; Rebekah is Mrs. William Thomas of Kansas City; Elizabeth Anne is now Mrs. Edward Harper and resides in Great Bend; Martha is now Mrs. William White; and Maria is now Mrs. Samuel White of Great Bend. Mr. Pascoe's first wife died February 28, 1889. September 28, 1889, Mr. Pascoe married Mrs. Anna Watts of Great Bend. They have one adopted child, Ruth Anne who now is nine years of age. Mr. Pascoe is one of the best known residents of Barton County. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. His son Paul and grandsons are also prominent in this order. The elder Mr. Pascoe has been a member of the Blue Lodge and the Chapter for . . . years.

He had the pleasure of seeing his son Paul



and two grandsons initiated into the Royal Arch and the Knights Templar degrees of Masonary at the same time. They also are members of the Coinsstory at Wichita and are 32nd degree masons. Mr. Pascoe is one of those hardy men who blazed the way that made possible the development of this county to one of which all its residents are justly proud.

Since the above was written John W. Pascoe has passed from this life to his reward in Heaven. The following is from the Daily Tribune of July 13th, 1912.

John W. Pascoe died this noon at 10 minutes of 1 at his home in this city. He had been suffering from a general breakdown and the last several months had been very feeble in health. No arrangements have yet been announced regarding the funeral services but they will undoubtedly be held under the auspices of the Masonic order of which he was a devoted member. Mr. Pascoe had been a resident of this county for nearly forty years, coming here from Michigan. He was born in England and grew to manhood in that country. He was a man of absolute honesty and in-

tegrity and enjoyed the respect of everyone who knew him. Further particulars regarding the deceased will be given in a later issue.

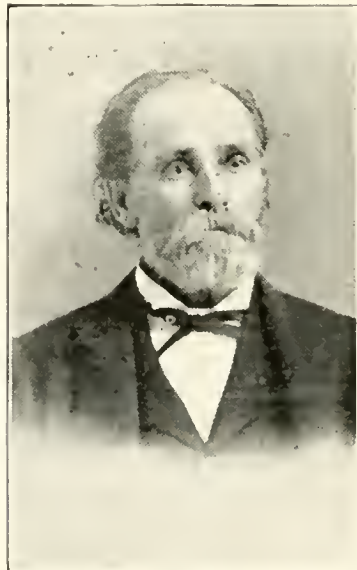
Mr. Pascoe was a zealous Mason and it was his pleasure to see his son and two grandsons join the lodge of which he thought so much. It is not often that such a distinction is enjoyed by any lodge, that of three generations belonging to the same lodge.

The funeral services will be held Monday afternoon, July 15, at 2:30 o'clock at the Methodist church.

He was a man of absolute honesty and integrity, was devoted to his family and enjoyed the respect of all who knew him. He was a devout Christian and during most of his life was a consistent member of the Methodist church. He was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity of this city and a member of the Consistory in Wichita.

He leaves to mourn his loss a wife, five children, twenty-three grand-children, two great grand children and a large circle of friends.

Funeral services were held this afternoon from the Methodist church, this city.



E. J. Dodge, (See page 80)

## RICHARD TAYLOR

**T**HERE are very few, if any, old timers of Barton County who did not know Richard Taylor, or "Dick," as he was commonly called by those who knew him best. Dick arrived in America shortly after the close of the civil war in 1865, a typical Englishman, whose love for his native land—where he belonged to the farming classes—made him believe that outside of England there was very little worth while. Small of stature, but possessed of unlimited physical energy, he at once entered the field of active effort in this country, his first venture being in the brokerage business in Milwaukee, Wis., with an uncle, Richard Peenugh. He remained there a few years, after which he came to Kansas and located first at Russell in Russell County. This was in 1872 and it was but a short time after his arrival there that he engaged in the lumber business with Mr. Yonall in Great Bend. In those days lumber was

the finest in this part of the country. Mr. Taylor was born in Hereford, England, July 10, 1844, and left there for America when he was 21 years of age. His liking for Hereford cattle is due to the fact that his birthplace is the home of this famous breed. He was married November 21, 1875, to Miss Rachel Slack and they are the parents of three children as follows: Annie R., Arthur E., and Thomas R. Annie and Thomas are residing at the old home place while Arthur E. is in the real estate, insurance and farm loan business in Great Bend. Arthur was born in Barton County April 17, 1880, and was married January 4, 1905, to Miss Mable Brinkman and they are the parents of two children: Lillian and Elizabeth. When Dick Taylor arrived in Barton County he was accompanied by two brothers, Harry, who died after he had been here about two years and Thomas, who is now engaged in the cattle business in Kiowa Coun-



Richard Taylor, 1875



Richard Taylor, 1912

sold by this firm to parties in Barton County, the lumber being freighted in wagons. It might be interesting to know that white pine was about the only lumber obtainable at that time, and with the high freight rates and big expense in handling it sold for about the same price that it brings today. In 1875 Dick engaged in the farming business a short distance northwest of Great Bend where he still resides. His home place is known as Walnut Hill Stock Farm and is one of the most desirable and highly improved farms in the county. Mr. Taylor makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Hereford cattle; his herd is one of

ty. Mrs. Taylor is a daughter of Rachel Slack, who arrived in Barton County in 1873 from Oswego, New York. Her husband was killed in the civil war. She located on land two miles north of Dartmouth. She was born November 29, 1827, at Leeds, England, and died January 1, 1912. Dick Taylor was the third mayor of Great Bend and also served as the county assessor in the early days. In 1910 Mr. Taylor took a trip back to England and while he had always pointed with pride to England as the leader in everything, he found that the methods that he had learned in the United States were superior to those in

use in his native land. In the free and easy days of the first settlements in this county there were numerous tests of physical skill and strength in the way of boxing and wrestling bouts, and in these lines Dick Taylor was frequently pitted against men much larger than himself and always came out of the frays with flying colors much to the surprise of some of his larger opponents. When Mr. Taylor arrived in this country he had only seventeen suits of clothes, but unfortunately the style worn at that time by the best dressed people of England did not fit very well with

the dictates of fashion in America. However, as soon as possible Mr. Taylor secured for his wardrobe a number of suits containing the highest class of American style and quality. Mr. Taylor is justly proud of his ancestry and native country but has always been a patriotic and progressive American and a citizen whom any community might desire, especially a community such as Barton County was at the time he took up his residence here. This is true because it is such men as Mr. Taylor who were required to withstand the hardships and make a productive section out of barren prairie land.

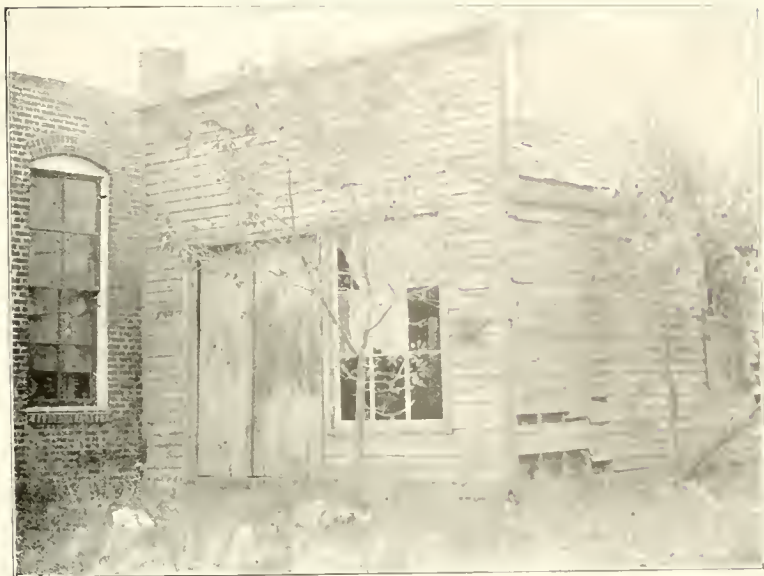
### GREAT BEND POSTOFFICE

**G**REAT BEND was designated a postoffice of the fourth class in 1872 the first postmaster being Mr. Fossil. The first building used as a postoffice—a likeness of which is shown herewith—is now used as a residence in the northeast part of town. Great Bend was designated a postoffice of the second class in 1902 and in 1906 had reached a point where it was possible to make successful application for free delivery in the city. City free delivery was established that year with three carriers, the number having been added to as demand required. The first rural route out of Great Bend was put on September 1, 1904, and in 1912 this number had been increased to six. In 1890 the receipts of the office were \$5,666, this being the amount for the year ending June 1, 1890. For the year ending June 1, 1893, the amount of

receipts of the office was \$5,175, for 1902, \$7,484, for 1905 \$10,977, for 1909 \$17,875 and at the close of the postoffice year June 1, 1912, the preceding twelve months showed a total of \$18,102. By an act of congress in 1908 an appropriation was made for a federal building at Great Bend to cost \$65,000. It will be completed and ready for occupancy before the first of the year. It is a fine building, built of granite, is fire proof throughout and will be furnished according to the latest ideas and the well known demands of the government for substantial quality and beauty. The present postmaster is Theodore Griffith who has served since August, 1902. He has been an efficient and conscientious official and has discharged the duties of the office in a way that has met universal commendation.



Mr. Fossil, Great Bend's First Postmaster



Great Bend's First Postoffice



U. S. Postoffice, Great Bend, Aug. 3 1912





Elks Home, Great Bend

## BENEVOLENT PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS No. 1127

THE Great Bend Lodge No. 1127, Benevolent Protective Order of Elks was organized Oct. 1908. Previous to this there were a number of gentlemen of Great Bend belonged to the Hutchinson lodge but in 1908 Great Bend had reached a population of 5,000 and a charter was issued for a lodge. There were fifty charter members and in 1909 the membership had increased to something over 400, when steps were taken which resulted in the building of the beautiful home for members of the order in Great Bend. The home was dedicated March 17, 1910. The exalted rulers of the lodge since it was organized have

been R. C. Russell, 1908-09; Dr. R. H. Meade, 1910; William Smythe, 1911 and J. L. Cox, 1912. At the present time the lodge has a membership of 607 and the officers are: J. L. Cox, Exalted Ruler; F. W. Brinkman, Esteemed Leading Knight; Dr. Stinson, Esteemed Loyal Knight; Wells Thompson, Esteemed Lecturing Knight; W. L. Bowersox, secretary; E. L. Chapman, treasurer; W. L. Delaplane, Inside Guard; Justus Sandrock, Outside Guard. The Great Bend Lodge is known in Elksdom as being one of the liveliest organizations of the order and this is saying a great deal as all Elks bodies are live ones.

## CHARLES A. HOOPER

AMONG the few business men of Great Bend who came here in the '80s and went through the good and bad times, and are here today and still in business is Charles A. Hooper. He was born in Adams County, Indiana, September 29, 1860, and came from there to the State of Kansas in 1878. He first located at Atchison where he remained until 1886 when he came to Barton County and opened a drug store on the lot now occupied by the Ideal Bakery. At the end of six months the business had grown to such an extent that more room was needed and the stock was moved to the corner of Lakin and Main street where the Wagaman store is now located. Mr. Hooper remained there a year and moved to his present location, 1507-9 Main street. Before coming to Kansas Mr. Hooper attended the Valparaiso College and Notre Dame College of Indiana where he fitted himself for a pharmacist and is now registered in the State of Kansas. Mr. Hooper was married September 4, 1883, to Miss Margaret Kennedy of Atchison and they are the parents of six children, five of whom are living as follows: Irene, who is now Mrs. J. P. Healy of Oklahoma City; Chas. Warren is attending John Hopkins University of Baltimore, Maryland; Ulanda, Jacob and Muriel are living at home. Mrs. Healey is a talented singer while her sister, Muriel, is a violinist of exceptional ability. Mr. Hooper's

business in this city has grown steadily since its inception and his establishment is now recognized as being one of the largest drug, music and book stores in this section of the country. The stores occupy two large rooms with balconies making a total floor space of 105,000 square feet. In the drug department can be found an exceptionally fine line of drugs, chemicals, toilet articles and the soda fountain is one of the best equipped and most sanitary to be found in Central Kansas. In the music department Mr. Hooper carries a line of pianos that compare favorably with the stock found in the largest cities and here one can obtain any kind of a musical instrument as well as sheet music, Victor talking machines and a complete line of records for these instruments. Then Mr. Hooper also makes a specialty of wall paper, books, stationery and he has built his business to its present high standing by correct methods and square dealing policies. When Mr. Hooper located in Great Bend it required men of great fortitude and keen business knowledge to overcome the adverse conditions with which they had to contend. However, Mr. Hooper was equal to the occasion and saw his business grow until it stands today among the leading mercantile establishments of Barton County and the State of Kansas.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK

THE first steps for the organization of the First National Bank were taken on May 9, 1885 when the call was issued by Mr. McBride for a meeting for that purpose. Mr. zation committee and was the first vice-president of the bank.

The first board of directors consisted of Mr. McBride, E. M. Parlin, W. H. Campbell, G. H. Hulme, R. C. Bailey, E. L. Chapman, C. F. Willner, J. H. Hubbard and John Lindas. The charter was issued by H. W. Cannon, then comptroller of the currency, on the

20, 1911 to July 1, 1911; Chas. Lobdell, July 1, 1911.

Cashiers—R. C. Bailey, July 7, 1885 to January 10, 1888; S. E. Prentis, January 10, 1888 to July 23, 1891; C. M. Wickwire, July 23, 1888 to November 2, 1891; G. L. Chapman, November 2, 1891 to January 14, 1895; H. J. Klein, January 11, 1898 to January 14, 1902; Ed L. Chapman, January 14, 1902 to June 1, 1912; F. H. Miller, June 1, 1912.

The real history of the bank began with the election of G. L. Chapman as cashier in 1891



G. L. Chapman

7th day of July, 1885 and it began the transaction of business with E. M. Parlin president and R. C. Bailey as cashier.

Officers of the bank since the date of its organization have been:

Presidents—E. M. Parlin, July 7, 1885 to July 31, 1888; J. W. Rush, July 31, 1888 to October 6, 1892; E. L. Chapman, October 6, 1892 to June 13, 1894; G. H. Hulme, vice-president and acting president, June 13, 1894 to January 14, 1895; G. L. Chapman, January 14, 1895 to March 20, 1911; R. L. Hamilton, March

and he was from that date to the date of his death, the active manager and guiding genius of the bank, carrying it through the panic of 1893 and the years of depression that followed. The story of the bank has been one of remarkable success—it having notwithstanding the necessary losses incident to the collapse of the boom of 1886 and '87 and the panic of '93, made a net earning during the period of its existence, up to July 1st of the present year of \$167,455.98 and with its capital of \$100,000 and surplus of \$20,000, it is today one of the strongest financial institutions of the Southwest.

September 9, 1912, the First National completed a business arrangement which resulted in nearly doubling its deposits and which has made it the strongest bank in the State of Kansas in a town the size of Great Bend and one of the strongest in the country. The deal resulted in the consolidation of the J. V. Brinkman Company Bank with the First National. The Brinkman Bank was the oldest institution of the kind in the western part of the state and its deposits were among the largest of any state bank of Kansas.

The consolidation of the banks resulted in a

slight change in the directorate of the institution. C. E. Lobdell remained president of the institution, with Chas. V. Brinkman vice-president. Peter Brack of Olmitz was added to the directorate and Frank Brinkman was made assistant cashier. The officers and directors of the bank are as follows: C. E. Lobdell, president; R. R. Hamilton, vice-president; Chas. V. Brinkman, vice-president; Fred Miller, cashier. Directors: C. E. Lobdell, C. V. Brinkman, Peter Brack, Ola B. Chapman, R. L. Hamilton, F. V. Russell, W. Torrey, E. J. Eveleigh. The institution has deposits amounting to nearly one million dollars.

### E. L. CHAPMAN

**E** L. CHAPMAN was born in Bath England, and came to Great Bend in 1873. Immediately after his arrival he took an active part in all public matters and up until the time of his death which occurred June 13, 1894, he was one of the best known men in the state. He took up a homestead in Buf-

years. During the Harrison-Cleveland campaign he was nominated for presidential elector from the Seventh District of Kansas at a convention held in Garden City. He later resigned this office to become a candidate for state senator and was elected by a flattering majority. He served but one term in this of-



E. L. Chapman

falo township, in this county. He was elected Probate Judge on an independent ticket in 1874 and was also elected to this office two successive terms on the Republican ticket. He was appointed postmaster of Great Bend by President Garfield and served nearly five

years, resigning to accept the appointment of receiver of the U. S. land office at Larned. This appointment was made by President Harrison. He organized the First National Bank of Great Bend in 1885 and it is now one of the leading financial institutions of the state.



The following is taken from the Kansas State Directory of 1889:

"E. L. Chapman, of Great Bend, Barton County, representing the Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, has long been identified with the interests of Central Kansas, his name being connected with many of the enterprises having for their object the development of the Arkansas Valley. As editor and publisher of a newspaper he has always advocated all legitimate propositions tending to benefit the people of Barton County, and his paper—The Register—has always been a power for good in Barton County. During the last campaign (1888) Senator Chapman had a hard battle

but succeeded in gaining a victory over his opponents. He is a member of Pap Thomas Post, G. A. R. of Great Bend and was among the number whose names appeared on the charter for this organization. He entered the U. S. army in 1861 and was mustered out in 1865, having served as Provost Marshal of the Department of the Cumberland. He was married to Anna Jones at Paducah, Kentucky, in 1864, and they are the parents of four children: General L., Laura, Leo and Edward." Mr. Chapman numbered his friends by the score and his death was an occasion for much grief in the community where he had proved himself to be a kind and generous man.

## PETER BRACK

ONE of the most notable examples of what a harbor of freedom the United States is, and a proof that all men in it are free and equal is Peter Brack of Olmitz, Barton County. He was born in the village of Popotchnaja, Russia, and was one of four children and with the usual prospects offered those residents of the Czar's realm who are not fortunate enough to be classed among the land owners or nobility. In Russia a man may have enough land to be called a farmer but he rents that and as a rule it is a little one to four acre patch of ground on which he raises mighty small crops, considering the amount of work he puts in on it, and he meets the taxes, the rent and cost of repairs as though he owned the land, and no matter how poor the crop might be, the share system only works when the owner of the land gets his share first and the tenant takes what is left. Mr. Brack was fired by the stories of riches to be found in America but did not imagine that money grew on trees, and could be had for picking it off, but he thought of the injustice of the system which denied him and his brothers—although as intelligent as the other children of the country—the right of freedom. The stories of the new world appealed to him, satisfied that if given a chance he could make good, he with his young wife, mother and three brothers and families, joined a colony starting for America. They arrived in New York October 21, 1876. Peter was then nineteen years old. His first position in Barton County after he arrived here was with L. M. Krause, working on his farm at \$8.00 per month. Later he took up farming with three brothers near Olmitz and after a short time he went to Colorado where he worked for the railroad for some time. In 1883 he started a country store on his eight acre farm in this county, with a stock consisting of \$800 worth of goods. Looking ahead to the development of his land, he having always lived in a farming country, knew that it was in farm-

ing that money was to be made. He was interested in seeing that his people got a good start and was a great help to other families that came to Barton County from his old home in Russia. These people were part of the colony of which the Bracks made up a part, and which is explained more fully in another article in this book. Mr. Brack has always been a leader among his countrymen in this country and those who were helped by him helped him in return when the fruits of their labor on the farms were successful. But if the farm had not paid well, he would never had received anything in return for what he loaned. The farm land made good and his money was returned to him. He invested in lands and saw that they paid. In the '90s when there were years of crop failures the Russian colony knew that it was only a cycle of poor years like they had known in Russia, and they stayed by the lands. As land got cheaper the young merchant saw his chance and began investing with the result that he now owns in Western Kansas nearly 100 quarter sections of land owns stock in several banks, is president of the bank at Olmitz—which became a necessity as the community prospered and gave up his store to retire from active business a few years ago. Two years ago he made a trip to the old country and on his return wrote a most interesting account of his travels. He is a shrewd, thorough business man, well content to live among the neighbors with whom he has shared joys and woes for thirty-five years and yet is a modern American business man. He is a product of the United States and proves the opportunity it has offerer to the people of all nations. Blessed with no children of his own, he and his wife have an adopted daughter, now Mrs. Constantine Schneider who with her husband share their palatial home in Olmitz, one of the finest appointed houses in the county.

## ANDREW JACKSON HOISINGTON

THESE are a number of biographies in this book but none that will be read with more interest than the one concerning A. J. Hoisington who was one of the best known pioneers of the state or at least that section of it now known as Barton County. No one person did more to further the interest of Great Bend and Barton County than did the subject of this sketch and his memory is revered by all who knew him for his kindly deeds and unswerving manhood. Andrew Jackson Hoisington was born near Quincy, Illinois, July 2, 1848. When a boy he removed with his parents to Greene County, Iowa; and later to Madison County, where he grew to manhood on his father's farm. After teaching school several terms he went to Des Moines, Iowa, where he learned the printer's trade in the office of the Des Moines Register. After a few years he returned to Madison County and became part owner of the Winterset Madisionian. He came to the State of Kansas in 1874 and first located at Newton where he taught school a short time after which he came to Great Bend and followed the same occupation. After teaching school northeast of Great for a few weeks, he was asked to take charge of the Great Bend Register which had just been established. This he did and ultimately purchased the paper and continued as its publisher until 1883. It was during this year that he was appointed receiver of the U. S. land office at Garden City to which place he took his family. He sold the Register to E. L. Chapman. Shortly after entering the land office at Garden City he organized and became president of the Finney County Bank. During the next few years he organized a string of banks throughout Southwestern Kansas, these establishments being located at Santa Fe, Ulysses, Arkalon and Hugoton. In 1890 he sold his interests in Garden City and moved to

Kansas City where he organized the Hoisington Loan & Trust Co., and the Hoisington Publishing Co., which he managed for several years. In 1895 he returned to Great Bend where he again got possession of the Register and had for partners in the business his sons, Earl and Roy. He died at Winterset, Iowa, in February, 1896. He was married to Miss Mary Smith of Madison County, Iowa, December 31, 1874, and they were the parents of three children: Morris Earl, Roy Albert and Arthur Frank, all of whom are living. Mrs. Hoisington died in Kansas City November 1, 1890.

Morris Earl Hoisington was born in Great Bend, January 20, 1876. In 1890 he became associated with his father and brother in the publication of the Great Bend Register. In 1895 and '06 he published the Clarion at Claf-lin where he also served as postmaster. He is a linotype operator at Grand Junction, Colorado, employed by the Sentinel of that city. He was married August 28, 1905, to Miss Bessie Henderson of Grand Junction and they are the parents of one son, Robert Morris Hoisington.

Roy A. Hoisington was born in Great Bend, November 21, 1880, and began his newspaper career with the Register in the latter '90s. He purchased the Standard at Leoti, Kansas, in 1901 and continued as owner and publisher until 1911. He was postmaster at Leoti six years. He married Miss Margaret Riley of Leoti and they are the parents of four children.

Frank A. Hoisington was born at Garden City, Kansas, November 27, 1886. He was associated with his brother, Roy, in the publication of the Leoti Standard for several years. He is now foreman of the Daily Sentinel of Grand Junction, Colorado. He was married in 1910 to Miss Peal Greenawalt at Leoti, Kansas, and they are the parents of one son, Carl.

## DR. AARON HENRICK CONNETT

AARON HENRICK CONNETT was born at Milford, Clermont County, Ohio, December 31, 1848. When he was three years of age his parents moved to Madison, Indiana, where his father died the following year and Aaron was sent to live with relatives on a farm some distance from Madison. He remained there until he was sixteen years of age and attended the district schools a number of years and finished his public school education at the high school in Madison. After his graduation from the Madison schools he took up the trade of carriage making and worked in a factory for four years. In 1867 he, with his mother and brothers came overland to Bedford, Iowa, arriving there October 1, 1867. Here he followed the farming business until

1874 when he took up the study of medicine in the drug store and office of his brother, M. C. Connett, who had been actively engaged in the practice of medicine in that town for several years. In 1878 he graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, now a department of the Drake University of Iowa, at that time located at Keokuk, Iowa. He also attended the Rush Medical College of Chicago. He practiced in his home town in Iowa until 1884 when he came to Barton County, Kansas, and located at Great Bend and since that time has been one of the best known physicians and surgeons in this part of the state. Dr. Connett was married to Miss Harriett Fordyce of Bedford, Ia., March 14, 1878, and there were three children born to this union: Bess, Mary and Helen G.

Mrs. Connett died in April, 1886. In April, 1887 Mr. Connett was married to Miss Lizzie J. Fordyce whom he also survived, she having died in November, 1896. In 1907 Dr. Connett married Elizabeth J. R. thell of Kansas City and they now occupy a neat residence at 1111 Morton street. Dr. Connett has always taken a great interest in the affairs of the community in which he lives and for four years was a member of the school board and served as city and county physician during the times when the community was suffering from a small pox epidemic. Dr. Connett handled the disease in a most acceptable manner and confined it to a limited area by prompt and efficient action. Dr. Connett stands high in the Masonic frater-

nity of Kansas. He became a member of the Masons in Iowa before coming to Kansas. He is a member of the local lodge Number 15, A. F. & A. M., and at different times has been Master of the local lodge, and served in the same capacity in his home town in Iowa. He is also a member of Mt. Nebo Chapter No. 36 R. A. M.; Zabund Council No. 4 R. & S. M.; Wichita Consistory No. 5, 32nd degree, Wichita, Kansas; Isis Temple, A. A. O. N. M. of Salina, Kansas; St. Omer Commandery No. 14, K. T.; is Past Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter R. A. M. of Kansas; Past Grand Master Grand Council R. & S. M. of Kansas, and at present is Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council, having held the latter office since 1903.



Dr. A. H. Connett



## CHRIS GILSON'S TRIAL

By D. N. Heizer

IN February, 1873, T. J. Peters, general manager of the Santa Fe road, wired me to go to the end of the road at the west line of the State of Kansas and survey the town of Sargent. I had an order to Mike Green, the famous track layer, for such assistance as I needed, who, having finished his labors in building the road to that point, was in camp there for the winter with a gang of track layers. There roamed in that country from Dodge City west, a gang of outlaws and horse thieves as daring and as desperate a set of robbers as could be found anywhere. Many of them were young men who had grown wild out of the buffalo hunting trade and wanted to be bad men; others had drifted away from civilized centers because they were bad and had to leave; others were naturally bad and when they found themselves in a free open country, free from the restraint of law, acted out their natural tendencies. At any rate they were a bad lot.

After leaving Dodge City in a caboose on the rear end of a construction train with Mose Weyman as conductor, at some little station west of Dodge, Cimarron, I think, two of these characters boarded the caboose, who, in the parlance of those days, were called "wolves." Each one of them had a pair of navy 44s strapped on his hips. Mose came around for their fare, which they flatly refused to pay. He went away about his business. After a while, biding his time and opportunity, having said nothing to irritate or arouse them, in passing along near where they sat and observing that they were off their guard, quick as a flash, he grabbed one of the pistols out of the holster and with it cocked in their faces, demanded their fare and got it, and took the rest of the pistols away from them. He was a little fellow, not over five feet, six inches high, but quick as a flash and perfectly fearless.

I reached the town of Sargent in the evening and found that there had already been built in a line a row of houses, tents and improvised places of business some forty or fifty in number, 400 feet north of the track. I found also that the "wolves" in the absence of any organization or establishment of law or official authority were running the town. I found my old friend, Bob Wright, an old pioneer on the Santa Fe trail, and a store in full operation. I took my blankets and transit and went to his store to stay all night. We made our beds down on the floor and surrounded them with sacks of shelled corn to afford us protection from stray bullets while we slept, as the so-called "wolves" were in the habit of shooting up the town at night as an evening pastime.

On investigation the next morning, I

found I would have to organize a camping outfit and go back down the road to Holidaysburg and carry out a line from the limit of the government survey as there was a sixteen-mile strip east of the state line which had not yet been surveyed, and I must do this in order to find my location.

In the morning I also found my old friends Mose and Jim Gainsford, who had come into that point from somewhere on a hunt. Mose was glad to see me and said he wanted my help. It seemed that an old Scotchman by the name of Alexander Gourley had come into this point from a buffalo hunt with a team of horses and wagon and had sold his pelts, got his money and the wolves were trying to get both away from him, and Mose and Jim, both strapping young fellows, good shots, fond of adventure and daring, found nothing more suited to their liking than to take up the old man's cause and help to get him out of the clutches of these self same "wolves."

They told me their plan was to get the old man to hitch up his team and drive out on the street ready to go when they knew the wolves would gather around the wagon to stop him. They asked me to get my gun ready to be on the ground as a careless looker on when they were ready to start, and in case of any trouble to govern myself accordingly. I carelessly wandered around to the starting place to where the old Scotchman had driven his team from the rear. The wolves gathered around as they had expected, and Jim Gainsford climbed up on the front seat beside the old man and pulled one of his revolvers out and just laid it across his knee. Mose got up on the rear end of the wagon with his needle gun across his lap cocked and ready for business. When all was ready, without any apparent concern Mose called out to the old man to drive on, he was all ready. Two of the wolves had gotten around in front of the horses, but when they saw the determined men of these two men they did not interpose any opposition to their going. They knew if they did that somebody would be hurt, and it might be they. There was nothing more said, but I could see as they drove away the look of disappointment and chagrin on the faces of these men who threw a glance at each other and seemed to come to a definite understanding that there was a job they had better not undertake as it was very likely to be more than a day's work. Nothing further occurred during the day of an exciting nature, except the robbing of a hunter who came in with hides and got some money and had taken a little too freely of whiskey when they fleeced him completely in broad day light. That night, as far as excitement was concerned, was a repetition of the night before. The "wolves," though, seemed to be on



a general carouse and spent most of the time drinking in Chris Gilson's saloon, marching up and down the street yelling and shooting and making night hideous as only wolves can. They were bad men from the head waters of Bitter Creek, and it was their night to howl and they did howl.

Chris Gilson was an intelligent, bright Irishman who had, from Newton west, run a saloon tent to supply the demands of Mike Green's 300 track layers and associate trade. The railroad men said Chris was a good fellow, honorable in his dealings with them, and sold them whiskey for their money, but would never permit any crooked business in his saloon. About a month before this time he had gotten into a controversy down at the old town with one of this same band of "wolves" who was attempting to rob a man in his place and to shoot him dead; consequently the gang had it in for Chris, and on this particular night they had gone to his place and, about "ninth drink time," it began to look very threatening, when Chris slipped out and went over to the railroad carpenter's train and stayed all night in fear of his life. The "wolves" took possession and compelled old Dad, his barkeeper, to mix drinks for them all night, as wanted, while they made merry and had a good time.

I hired an old Irishman with his mule team, who had been teamster for Chris Gilson, to haul my camp equipage and baggage the next day down to Hollidaysburg. The next morning he hitched up his team and drove it up opposite Gilson's tent so that the tail end of the wagon reached out over the sidewalk or path in front of the buildings. I was helping the old Irishman load the wagon from the rear end when Long Jack and one armed Sam Wright came along. Just as they were turning out to go around the end of the wagon, and where I stood, Chris Gilson popped out of the front of the tent with a double barrel shot gun in his hand, and, directing his attention to them, said, "You — — —; I'll fix you," and fired one load of buckshot into Sam Wright's heart, and he fell dead within six feet of me. Long Jack started to run towards the railroad train and he gave him the other barrel through his arm. He got to the train, which was starting, and got away with a shattered arm. In but a few moments more Tom McClelland came up half dazed with drink, saying he guessed Chris would not hurt him, but Chris did hurt him, for he had no sooner come within range of the tent than out he came again, and at the first shot shattered his arm; when he started towards the railroad, with Chris after him. He finally stopped, exclaiming, "Oh, for God's sake, don't," and received the other barrel through his chest, which killed him instantly.

The respectable business men of the town at once came to the front and asserted themselves, a thing they had been afraid to do before. They at once assembled in Bob Wright's store and then began Chris Gilson's trial by

a jury of his peers. Bob Wright was elected chairman of the meeting and somebody else secretary, and motion was made and carried to the effect that Chris Gilson be tendered a vote of thanks for the services he had just rendered the town, and the motion carried unanimously. A motion was also made that the rest of the gang of "wolves" be given five minutes in which to quit the town, never to return. The motion carried unanimously. No other notification was necessary. During the next five minutes you could look in almost any direction and see a man going.

Then the hat was passed and thirty-five dollars was contributed and passed into the hands of the committee who were instructed to purchase a new shot gun, the best that could be purchased for the money, and present it to Chris Gilson as a testimonial of the services rendered by him. The meeting adjourned and from that time forth there was not a more orderly town in that country than Sargent. The bad blood was all spilled or gone and men of even doubtful conduct found their manners at once.

I became very well acquainted with Chris Gilson after that and found him to be a royal good fellow of manly qualities and good, decent intentions. He had been headquarters teamster during the war, under Phil Sheridan. He was a good musician and entertained me a whole evening singing songs and playing the guitar. He was as tender hearted and as gentle as a woman, but he was driven to desperation by this lawless gang, who were in the wrong. He knew they were in the wrong and he had the nerve to take up his gun and shoot them right. The business men recognized that it was the only thing to do, and they justified him in full for doing it. Long Jack escaped on the train and went back down to Florence, Kansas, where he had grown up among decent people. I saw him years afterward attending John Robinson's circus at Florence. He told me that his experience "broke him of sucking eggs," and I dare say he became a respectable, good citizen.

Mose and Jim Gainsford took the old Scotchman with them down to Great Bend to the old Fort Zarah settlement, where the old man took up his soldier's homestead and became a permanent settler. He was a sturdy old son of Scotia's soil, nearly eighty years old, and had served four years and seven months in the army of the Union during the Civil war. He went on numerous hunting expeditions from that point, and a young German, who had just come to America and taken out his first papers, taking advantage of his absence from his homestead, jumped his claim and contested his right to hold it. I defended the old man in his suit at the land office and Mose was his principal witness. The case was fought through the land department to the secretary of the interior, and I secured a decision in the old man's favor, without hope of reward, and the only compensation, in fact, I did

not expect any compensation, but years afterwards when the old man's failing strength and years compelled him to secure quarters in the Soldier's Home at Leavenworth, just before departing, came into my office and with tears in his eyes and in the most feeling words acknowledged the friendly acts I had done for him and his inability to compensate me in money, and, with a "God bless you, my brave lad," presented me with a pint bottle of whiskey. While I did not drink whiskey I nevertheless appreciated the spirit that bestowed the gift just as much as if it had been a bottle of gold dust.

Mose was a staunch character. He had been during the war a soldier in the Union army in Missouri. After the war he had been with the United States marshal's forces as a deputy marshal in helping to restore civil order. He belonged to a good family of people, who, through the war, had come into contact with the most thrilling scenes in it. About '67 he had driven out from Missouri to Western Colorado and had had gone through many wild experiences, a miner in California Gulch, a prospector and hunter in Taylor Park, South Park and all over New Mexico, and finally drifted to old Fort Zarah, where I first became acquainted with him in 1871. He was

six feet high, straight as an Indian, good features, steady steel blue eyes, strong as a giant, a splendid shot, and, while I have seen him in many tight places, I never saw him exhibit the least excitement or feeling of fear. Under excitement his features looked a little sterner and his countenance perhaps a little paler. He was a man of splendid impulses of heart, and while he had come through all phases of excitement incident to frontier life and become familiar with the hardest, yet when civilization overtook him he naturally settled down and assimilated with it and became one of the most prosperous citizens in his section of the country.

Jim had gone through much the same experience, was more sensational in temperament but with undaunted courage. He settled down to the marshalship of a Texas cattle shipping town and was a terror to the lawless element of the cowboy fraternity. In keeping them regulated and submitting them to lawful authority he had to kill a number of them, but he did it in the full performance of his duty. There were but few better shots with a Navy 44 than Jim. He never pulled his gun until the last extremity, but when he did, he rarely missed.

## DUNCAN BOTTLING WORKS

T. E. Winstead, Proprietor

HERE are very few people in this day and age who do not enjoy a bottle of soda pop as it has gained a place among the summer beverages that nothing else can fill, and the pleasure derived from drinking a bottle of pop is greatly enhanced if you get the product of the Duncan Bottling Works of Great Bend. This is one of the manufacturing interest of Great Bend that has been built up on merit. It was established in Hoisington where it was operated for some time before it was moved to Great Bend in 1909. It was operated by Mr. Duncan until March, 1911, when he sold a half interest to Mr. Winstead who bought the remainder of the business in November of the same year. Mr. Winstead was born in the City of Great Bend in 1881 and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Winstead, the former having been marshal of the town and sheriff of the county and whose biography will be found in another part of this book. Mr. Winstead was married June 5, 1907, to Miss Carrie Collins of Great Bend and they

have one child, a boy, Kenneth, who was born on the 4th of July, 1908. Mr. Winstead has given his personal attention to the management of his business and ships the products to all parts of this and surrounding counties within a radius of 150 miles. The plant has a capacity of 400 cases of soda water per day and it is found on sale at all drink emporiums that appreciate the best in the beverage line. Mr. Winstead makes his own flavoring extracts which is a guarantee of their purity and strength. All mixing and bottling is done under Mr. Winstead's personal supervision and during the busy season the place gives employment to five people which number is increased as the demand grows greater. This is one of Great Bend's manufacturing enterprises which has gained its high standing among the people of this part of the state by turning out only the best of goods at all times. Mr. Winstead was one of the first two mail carriers in the City of Great Bend.



Judge Dan A. Banta

## JUDGE DAN A. BANTA

**D**AN A. BANTA was born near Union City, Ohio, in the year 1851, and it was in that state that he received his early education. He went to the state of Indiana in 1866, where he remained until 1884 when he came to the state of Kansas. Before leaving Indiana he studied law with the firm of Steele & St. John and in 1879 was admitted to the bar in the town of Marion, Indiana. After his arrival in Kansas Judge Banta took up the practice of law and has made a record in the different courts of the state of which he may well feel proud. Early in 1910 the Republican party wanted a candidate for district judge who had earned a place in the district by his untiring efforts in fighting for right and justice and when Dan A. Banta's name was suggested the party workers knew that he was just the man they needed for this

important place on the ticket. That their judgment was correct was proven at the election in the fall of 1910 when Dan Banta was elected judge of the Twentieth judicial district of Kansas by a most flattering majority. Since Judge Banta has been called upon the bench he has been called upon to decide some important cases and the record he has made has been most gratifying to his friends in all political parties. Judge Banta is married and has three boys: Dan Worth, George and Arthur. Dan Worth is a musician of rare ability, George is an expert mechanic while Arthur is engaged in the practice of law in Great Bend. Judge Banta is of that type of man that makes friends and retains them by his universal genial manner, and high sense of right and justice.



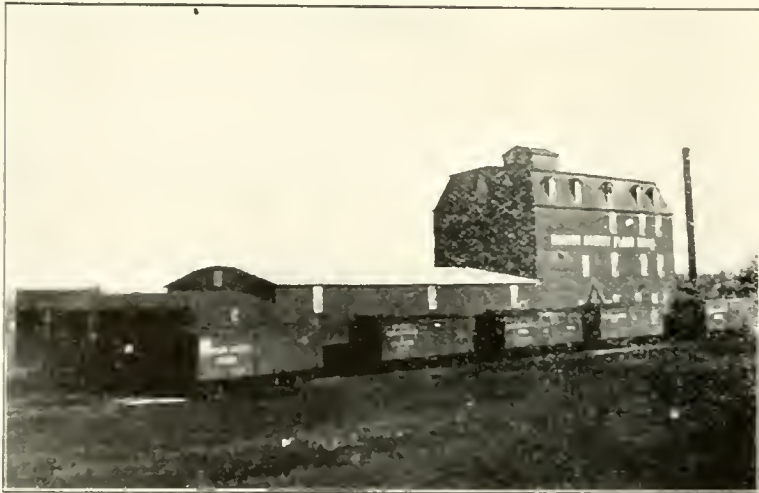
Residence of Judge D. A. Banta



## CHARLES L. GUNN

CHARLES L. GUNN was born at La Salle, Illinois, August 24, 1859. He came to Barton County with his parents in 1877 and for some time worked for farmers in the neighborhood of his father's homestead. Later he acquired 160 acres of land and began farming for himself. He is one of five boys of whom Levi Gunn is the father, his brothers are Frank, William, Lou and Howard, all of whom are mentioned in another part of this book. Charles L. was married in 1882 to Miss Fannie Lee of this county and they are the parents of six children as follows: Walter, Leonard, Grace, Ray, May and Edward. Walter is vice-president of the Barton County Milling Co., Leonard is secretary and treasurer, while their father is president and manager. The remainder of the children are at home and are being educated along modern lines. The Barton County Milling Co., of which Mr. Gunn is the president, was organized in 1903, and since that time its pro-

duct has added greatly to Great Bend's fame as a milling city. The mill owned by this company was formerly the property of Moses Brothers but seven years ago Mr. Gunn purchased a two-thirds interest and later acquired possession of the one-third. Since Mr. Gunn has had control of the mill he has added to its efficiency by the addition of the latest approved machinery and by using only the best methods in flour making which has made for it a most enviable reputation. Mr. Gunn gives personal supervision to the management of the mill and in addition to the milling business owns a thousand acres of land near Heizer and other farms in different parts of the county. Most of this land is farmed under his direction. The Gunn family is one of the best known of the early settlers and they are familiar with the early history of this section of Kansas.



Barton County Flour Mill

## DR. SIMEON JESSIE SHAW

MANY there are who will read this biography with sorrow as it is a brief account of the life of one who during the '80s in Great Bend gained for himself a warm place in the hearts of the people who made up the population of the town and Barton County. Dr. Simeon Jessie Shaw was born in Ohio and came to Barton County in 1884. He was a graduate of the Starling Medical College of Columbus, Ohio, and immediately upon his arrival here took up the practice of his profession. It was but a short time until he was known and respected in all parts of Barton and surrounding counties, not only as a careful, painstaking physician but as a citizen whose counsel was eagerly sought and whose friendship was highly prized. He was married to Miss Orlinda G. Lewis of Ohio and they were the parents of one child, Vida, who is now the wife of Dr. E. E. Morrison of this city. Dr. Shaw died in December, 1901, and never in the history of Great Bend had there been a funeral previous to his where such genuine sorrow was shown by so many people. The funeral was one of the largest that ever was held in this part of the state and was attended not only by local people but by friends of the dead physician from all over Kansas. Dr. Shaw with all of his practice found time to take an interest in public undertakings and

served the county as coroner several times. He ran for the office of representative but like all the candidates on his ticket was defeated. In the eighties Dr. Shaw opened a drug store but later sold it and bought land and at the time of his death owned about 720 acres of land in Barton County. He was a member of the Masons, A. O. U. W., Modern Woodmen and in the Masonic fraternity was a member of the Strikers and belonged to Isis Temple of Salina. He will always be remembered by the old timers of Barton County and all who knew him as a good, conscientious doctor, and a citizen of which any community could be proud.

The professional life of Dr. Shaw in this community is well pictured in the story of Dr. Wm. McClure, by Ian McLareu. He was indeed a doctor of the old school, through rain and sleet, over rough roads and at all hours of the night he drove on his errands of mercy. No thought of financial returns gave him strength for his labors and his cheery smile brought hope and comfort wherever he went. It is not too great a meed of praise to give to his memory that he gave his life to the people of Barton County as fully as a soldier on the field of battle or the pioneer on the western plains.

## FRED NUTTLEMAN---(Nuttleman Manufacturing Co.)

AMONG the manufacturing industries of Great Bend the Nuttleman Manufacturing Company occupies a prominent place as its products are shipped all over the country and add to Great Bend's reputation as a place where they do things. The Nuttleman Manufacturing Company's establishment is owned and operated by Fred Nuttleman who gives his personal attention to the management of the plant. Mr. Nuttleman was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin, February 7, 1875, and remained there until he was twenty-two years of age when he came to Great Bend and entered the employment of the firm of Miller & Hemker, hardware dealers. At the end of three years Mr. Nuttleman purchased Mr. Miller's interest in the business and the firm name was changed to Hemker & Nuttleman. Four years ago Mr. Nuttleman sold his interest to Mr. Hemker and established the Nuttleman Manufacturing Co. The factory is contained in a building two stories high and 50 by 70 feet in dimensions and is located on Williams street between Forest and Lakin in Great Bend. Here are made wheat bins, tanks and culverts and it has become known all over this

part of the state that anything bearing the name of the Nuttleman Manufacturing Co. represents all that is best in the line of goods made of sheet metal. This concern employs seven people and adds in no small way to the pay roll of the city. Everything in the sheet metal line is manufactured and no job is too small or too large for this concern to successfully undertake. Mr. Nuttleman is the general manager of the plant and all work is done under his supervision. The material used in the work at this plant is the best that can be obtained and the prices charged are consistent with the very best material and workmanship. The business of this establishment has grown each year and is growing bigger and the business the most of its products becomes generally known. Mr. Nuttleman was married February 6, 1902, to Miss Rosa Hambl and they occupy a nice residence at 2925 Forest. Mr. Nuttleman has a very keen interest in all the business interests of Great Bend since his arrival here and he has done much to add to Great Bend's reputation as a manufacturing city.

## GEORGE H. HULME

**I**N business circles in Barton County there is no man who is better known than George H. Hulme who was one of the pioneer merchants of Great Bend. George H. Hulme was born February 4, 1844, at Manchester, England and came to America with his mother in 1849, two years after his father had arrived in this country. The family first located at Fall River, Massachusetts, where they remained two years. They went from there to Magnolia, Illinois, and remained there until 1875, when George came to Barton County, Kansas. He brought with him a \$7,000 stock of general merchandise which he placed on sale in a building located on lot 1, block 103, which is the ground now occupied by the First National Bank Building. Later the stock was moved to the opera house block at the corner of Williams and Forest Avenue. This was in 1888 after the completion of the opera house building which was erected by Mr. Hulme and C. F. Wilner. Later the merchandise stock was moved from there to a building on Forest Avenue next to the postoffice where it remained under Mr. Hulme's management until July, 1911, when he sold out the stock to George O. Hunt. The Great Bend Flour Mill which Mr. Hulme still owns was built by W. W. P. Clement in 1876 and at that time had a capacity of 25 barrels per day. In 1886 Mr. Hulme and William Kelley purchased an interest in the mill. This partnership continued until 1898 when Hulme and Kelley bought out Mr. Clement and in 1905 Mr. Hulme bought out Mr. Kelley and became the sole owner of

the mill. It now has a capacity of 400 barrels per day. The leading brands of flour made by the Great Bend Mills are "Perfection," for the export trade and "Sunbeam" both of which are noted for their quality. Mr. Hulme was married to Miss Anna M. Bosley at Magnolia, Illinois, November 11, 1875, and they are the parents of seven children, five of whom are living. The children are: Georgia, who is now Mrs. G. W. Green; James H., who aids his father; Raymond, who is engaged in the farming business in Barton County; Charles looks after his father's farming interests; and Vivian, the baby of the family, lives at home. In addition to the above Mr. and Mrs. Hulme are the parents of two children, Clara, who died when six years of age and Vivian who died when he was four years of age. Since making his home in this county Mr. Hulme has always been known as a substantial business man and in addition to his business interests in Great Bend he has accumulated considerable farm land. He owns nineteen quarter sections in Barton County, three quarters in Cowley County and six quarters in Stevens County, nearly all of which is being farmed by renters. There are few if any of the old timers of Barton County who have not bought goods of Mr. Hulme as his store was one of the first general stores in the City of Great Bend. Mr. Hulme has held public offices on different occasions and has always found time to take an interest in the public affairs of the community in which he lives.

## DON A. WELTMER

**D**ONALD A. WELTMER, Don Weltmer as everybody knows him, was born in Eureka township, Barton County, February 24, 1879. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian A. Weltmer, who came to this section of the state in 1878. The family moved to Great Bend in 1886. In 1900 Don and his brother Pete established the firm of Weltmer Brothers and for five years they conducted the grocery business now owned by Turner & Son. In 1905 Don bought out the soda water bottling business owned by H. E. Benn. It occupies a building on Kansas Avenue that housed the first electric light plant in the City of Great Bend. The business occupies a building on Kansas Avenue 25 by 65 feet in dimensions

and during the busy season employs eight people. In addition to manufacturing all kinds of pop and soft drinks Mr. Weltmer is the exclusive bottler of Cocoa Cola and Jersey Cream in this territory. The works are equipped with the most modern machinery and appliances for bottling in a sanitary manner. Mr. Weltmer was married in 1904 to Miss Lelia A. Giddings who came to this part of the state from Connecticut. They have one bright eyed baby boy two years old. His name is Donald, Jr., and while Donald, Sr., is manager of the bottling works, the junior member of the firm is sole manager of the household.



Great Bend Mills



## LOUIS P. AND KATE A. FREY

SEPTEMBER 23 will always be celebrated in some manner by the descendants of Louis P. and Kate A. Frey, because it was on September 23, 1871, that they arrived on the townsite of Great Bend, and were the first party of emigrants to join those who had located the town. Starting at Liberty, Adams County, Illinois, on August 26, 1871, and accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Schneck and three children, and Thompson Frey, the party had covered the distance in three wagons drawn by mules. They, of course, had been preceded by the members of the townsite company who had surveyed and plotted the site, and who had been notified of their coming; otherwise this little band would have driven past the ground laid out had it not been

foot pieces of a scantling that remained after making these pegs. There were no houses or tents to house them, and the nearest lumber, provisions, or postoffice was in either Ellsworth or Russell, a distance of forty or fifty miles. Texas cattle, wild buffalo, and other wild animals had possession of the field, and a few days after their arrival the party were regaled by cowboys who had roped some buffalo and tried to stampede these newcomers by a rush through the townsite. In time such happenings as this, the pilfering of friendly Indians, and the reports of massacres in other parts of the state became common and the women folk less afraid and they screwed up their courage and determined to conquer.

A little home was first built on the town-



Residence of Louis and Kate Frey

that Wm. H. Odell discovered the passing wagons and followed them a distance on horseback and directed their return. The mules driven were the first animals of their kind to join the colony, and Mrs. Frey was the first white woman to set foot within the confines of what is now the corporate limits of a great metropolis. She, of course, was soon joined by Mrs. Schneck, who arrived in the second wagon of the same party; and following was Thompson Frey, driving the rear team. What they found was a waste plain with stakes driven in a portion of it marking the outlines of lots and streets, and two six

site, and then Mr. Frey entered a homestead of eighty acres, where the widow now resides with her only son, Adam G. Frey and wife. They call the place "Freyhurst," and it is three miles northwest of the court house at Great Bend; has a comfortable residence, barn and other buildings, and the soil is very fertile and grows corn, wheat, and four or five cuttings of alfalfa yearly.

Louis P. Frey was born in 1845 in Illinois and died March 7, 1903, and rests in the Great Bend cemetery, sadly missed by all his associates who helped to tame this then "farthest west" and make it inhabitable for the present generation.

## GREAT BEND ICE, FUEL AND STORAGE CO.

ONE of the industrial enterprises of which the people of Great Bend and this part of the state are justly proud is the new, modern plant of the Great Bend Ice, Fuel and Storage Co., located near the Missouri Pacific depot in Great Bend. It is safe to say that but few people of this section realize the magnitude of this establishment or have an understanding as to the amount of money it required, to say nothing of the work and faith in the future of the city that was manifested by the promoters of the enterprise when they resolved to establish in Great Bend an ice cream and ice factory along the lines of the most modern plants in the world. The plant is housed in a thoroughly modern building of sufficient size to allow plenty of room for all the different departments. The plant is owned by some people and is under the management of George L. Seeley, a gentleman who has had years of experience in the manufacture of ice and ice cream and knows the business in all its details.

The plant has been producing a high grade of ice for the past year and at times the demand for the product has been so great that it was necessary to run the plant to capacity which was twenty-five tons per day. Ordinarily the plant produced between twenty and twenty-five tons per day. The plant is equipped with two 100 H. P. high pressure boilers, two 50 H. P. Murray-Corliss engines and two powerful ammonia compressors.

To this equipment there was recently added another big engine which brings the capacity of the plant up to thirty tons of ice per day.

The steam after passing through the engines and compressors is conveyed to the rear of the building in pipes where it is condensed and piped to the filters where it passes through two charcoal filled tanks in the shape of distilled water. From there it passes through another tank filled with fine grain sponges and finally it is filtered through a series of closely woven cloths before it reaches the tanks where it is frozen and come forth a cake of absolutely pure ice. There are three hundred and twenty-five of these tanks and after the water contained therein is frozen the result is cakes of ice weighing three hundred pounds each. The water is frozen by ammonia evaporation system. The ammonia is compressed until it has a pressure in the pipes of 150 pounds to the square inch and in this form it is conducted to the brine tanks where it escapes as a gas at a pressure of 15 pounds to the square inch, and by the evaporation thus caused the heat is taken from the tanks to such an extent that the temperature is reduced sufficiently to cause the water to freeze. It is possible to produce ice at a much smaller expense but it is the determination of this company to spare neither work nor expense in producing the best that can be obtained and it can readily be seen after reading the foregoing that some of

the features of this plant's product is that it is absolutely pure.

The ice cream department is in charge of Mrs. George L. Seeley who has had years of experience in the manufacture of ice cream and from the time the cream is delivered at the factory until it comes from the freezer it is under her careful supervision. First the cream must be of the very best grade before it can be used at this establishment. Its purity and quality being determined by treating it in a modern tester which shows its purity and worth in butter fat. After having passed the test successfully the milk and cream is placed in a big tank from which it is piped into the pasteurizing machine where it is heated to a temperature of 160 degrees. It is then reduced to a temperature of 40 degrees while passing over a series of coils containing brine which cools the pipes to any point desired. From there it is run back into the cans and is ready for the agitator where the other ingredients and the milk and cream are mixed and allowed to ripen. After the mixtures have been in the agitator a sufficient length of time it is then ready for the freezer from which it comes out the finished product that is known wherever ice cream is eaten in this section of the state as the acme of ice cream perfection. The room in which the ice cream is made is a model of neatness and is thoroughly sanitary in every way and the different pieces of machinery are so arranged that a minimum of work is required in handling the materials and the finished products. The plant has been running over a year now. The machinery that is used in this department is the very latest to be had and the pasteurizing apparatus while not absolutely necessary is another evidence of this company's policy to produce nothing that is not absolutely pure in every way.

This company handles all grades of coal and have bin room for a large quantity which is obtained from the best Colorado mines. The company will buy in large quantities, nothing but the very best, and is equipped for delivery in any size lots to all parts of the city on the shortest possible notice.

George L. Seeley, the manager and a majority stock holder of this company, was born in Scranton, Pa., in 1874. He was married in Topeka, Kansas, in 1902, to Miss Susan A. Deyo and they are the parents of three children: George Lee, Fay Garinsey and Helen Elizabeth, all of whom are living at home. Under Mr. Seeley's management the success of this company has been extended until its products are now shipped to all parts within a radius of 100 miles of Great Bend, there being a large patronage at home. This is due to the fact that this company's output is composed of the very best of material mixed and made ready for use by the latest improved methods.

## MARION F. SOWARDS

MARION F. SOWARDS of "Santa Fe Trail Farm," three and one-half miles southwest of Great Bend, was born June 20, 1847, on a farm in Columbia County, Wisconsin. He assisted his father and attended the public schools until September, 1863, and then enlisted as a private in the 4th Wisconsin Light Horse Battery and served in the Army of the Potomac until July, 1865. He was in the battles of the Wilderness; fought in front of Petersburg and on James River, and was in a continuous fight every day for six months. In 1864, at a skirmish at Signal Hill, eight or ten miles out of Richmond, he was wounded in the calf of his leg and taken prisoner and

Marion F. Sowards and family first came to Barton County in October, 1873, making the journey in a wagon and was six weeks on the road. He remained for a short period, and going farther west into Edwards county, entered a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres five miles southwest of Kinsley. He sold out in 1881 and returned to his old home in Wisconsin by wagon, where he remained one year, and in the fall of 1882 returned to Barton County to remain permanently. His home farm covers three hundred and twenty acres; he owns three small parcels amounting to one hundred and twenty-six acres in the neighborhood; a half section near Dundee, and



Residence of Marion F. Sowards

the confederate surgeons wanted to amputate the limb, but at his earnest entreaty he was spared this indignity and recovered. As a prisoner he was taken to Richmond and confined for three or four weeks in Libby and Castle Thunder, and then exchanged. Later he returned to his command and was mustered out at the conclusion of hostilities. He then returned to the farm and remained until October 8, 1869, and was married to Miss Mary Elizabeth Rowell, of Columbia County, Wisconsin, a near relative of Geo. P. Rowell, the head of the Geo. P. Rowell Advertising Agency of Chicago and New York. They have one child: Mrs. Violet Louise Holmes, of Barton County.

a quarter section in Buffalo township—making nine hundred and twenty-six acres in all. This is all well improved and under cultivation, and is set in wheat, corn and alfalfa. Stock breeding is a prominent feature of this farm, and there is a herd of eighteen or twenty registered Shorthorns, and some of the better classes of draft horses, mules and hogs. The residence is a two-story white frame, setting well back from the highway, surrounded by forest trees, plants and flowers, and is approached by a driveway through meadows of alfalfa. It is modernly furnished and has acetylene lights, bath and water connections. The barn is 36x48, and there are sheds, granaries, garage and other outbuildings, besides some tenant cottages on the estate.



## THE LAKE IN CHEYENNE BOTTOMS

FOR a number of years during the early nineties, Central Kansas was visited by drouth, and the farmers began to despair and gave their thought and attention to the question of irrigation. Here in Barton County, and especially at Great Bend a number of large land owners couniled with Mr. F. B. Koen, who had made a success in the construction of irrigation canals in Colorado and Western Kansas, and was a practical irrigation canal builder. It is probable that at first, at least so far as the Barton County men were concerned, they did not have in mind the construction of a great lake, but as the plan developed this became an essential part of the scheme.

Seven miles north of Great Bend lay the Cheyenne Bottoms, an immense area of land which doubtless once formed the bed of a great lake. For its entire length, some twelve or fourteen miles, and varying in width from two and a half to five miles, surrounded on three sides by bluffs of about one hundred feet in height, nature seemed to have provided a reservoir such as was needed at that time to supply water to the drouth stricken region in Barton County. Among the local people who were much interested in this plan were J. V. Brinkman, G. N. Moses and others and a company was formed known as the Grand Lake Reservoir Company. This company proceeded to construct an irrigation canal from a point on the Arkansas river as far west as Dundee to the Cheyenne Bottoms. It was the idea of the projectors that the lands in the Bottoms could be secured at a price not to exceed a dollar per acre, taken as a whole, but when the owners realized the immensity of the project values suddenly increased, and thousands of acres that had been always considered worthless were valued at a high figure. Of course trouble had been expected along the line of the canal but this was easily disposed of and was only a small affair compared with the other difficulties which now met the company. To add to this Mr. Koen, with a knowledge of what the success of the enterprise really meant to this county had considerable personal trouble with the owners of tracts of land and this tended to abstract the success of the operations. It became necessary to have some special legislation, granting the right of condemnation for the reservoir, and this being procured the company proceeded to condemn land and deposited with the county treasurer the amounts allowed by the condemnation commissioners. Meanwhile work had proceeded upon the canal, and at the next flood tide of the Arkansas river a volume of water fifty feet in width, was carried into the reservoir for some three or four days.

To the casual observer it had the appearance, for a portion of the distance of running uphill, but there had been a first class engin-

eer over the line and his skill had solved the problem successfully. It was indeed a great sight, and many of the people interested concluded that a way had now been found for providing moisture during the drouth periods. In the meantime a number of Kansas City parties had been interested in the proposition and Mr. W. J. Hallack who had been active in enterprises at Detroit, Michigan, and had lately moved to Kansas City, undertook to engineer the financial part of the plan. The company was reorganized under the name of the Lake Koen Navigation, Reservoir and Irrigation Co., and there was added to the irrigation purposes the idea of having the lake of sufficient size to accommodate boats of a considerable size. A further condemnation was made along the line of the canal so that the canal might be widened to one hundred feet. Most of the owners of land in the Bottoms appealed from the award of the commissioners and a flood of litigation as well as water met the projectors of the enterprise. About this time A. E. Stillwell of Kansas City, builder of the Kansas Southern and Orient Railroads became interested and through his efforts the project seemed destined to be entirely successful, but the further use of the canal was delayed, pending the settlement of the litigation. There is no doubt however that the plan was feasible and that an immense lake could have again been made where nature had once provided one. The scheme however proved a failure and the main reason for the failure was one which never entered the minds of its projectors. A change came over the natural conditions and bountiful rains supplied the moisture needed for the crops in the Arkansas Valley, and even those interested in the project awoke to the fact that irrigation was no longer needed. Today the holders of the same lands which were to be covered by the waters of the great lake are interested in the formation of a company to drain a large part of the land which was to have been covered by the waters of this lake. Subsequent events have also shown that the plan would have failed for the reason that the rapid growth of the irrigation systems in eastern Colorado and western Kansas have eliminated from the central portion of Kansas practically all of the flood waters of the Arkansas river.

Those who were closest with the plan from its inception and who still live in Barton County realize that as a property value for irrigation purposes the construction of this lake would have brought enormous benefits to the whole of the surrounding country. At least for the present the lands on the old lake bed still remain uncovered, yet the time may come when this plan so far as the construction of the lake is concerned will reach a successful realization.



## WILLIAM R. BUNTING

**W**ILLIAM R. BUNTING, or Bill, as he was better known, had been a prominent figure in the life and history of Barton County since he arrived here in the seventies, until the time of his death. At different times he was engaged in business and in the public life of the county he took a prominent part. It was but a few days before he died that he brought his photograph for a cut to the office of the Tribune, where he was a trusted and faithful employee, and it did not seem possible

and after the death of his father, the mother and children came to Kansas overland in 1876, when the subject of this sketch was 18 years of age. They located on a claim in Stafford county and later Will took a claim himself. On July 4, 1876, he was united in marriage to Miss Retta Kinney, who survives him, and of the union six children, Mrs. Ray Brown of this city, Mrs. Lome Sherwood of Linton, Ind., Mrs. Edith Johnson, of Indianapolis, and Tom, Blaine and Vivian of this city survive.



William Bunting

that we would have to write his obituary for this volume. However this proved to be true and in losing "Bill" all the members of the Tribune force from the proprietors to the carrier boys lost a faithful friend and the community a loyal citizen.

W. R. Bunting was born March 14, 1858, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. At an early day the family moved to Missouri locating in Sedalia

The following was written for the Tribune by Elrick C. Cole and it pays Mr. Bunting a deserving Tribute for his public service to the people of Barton County:

"My first intimate acquaintance with Will Bunting was formed in 1888 when he was elected clerk of the court. Prior to that time he had been active in the political affairs of the western part of the county and had proven

himself a tireless worker. After his election, our offices adjoined and the duties of our respective positions brought us into close contact.

"No more active, painstaking official has ever served this county and his popularity at the close of his first term, caused not only his re-nomination, but also his endorsement by the Democratic party. In after years, he served this city, both as councilman and member of the board of education and he also served a

short term as sheriff. In every position of public trust he exhibited splendid executive ability and a constant effort to faithfully serve the people who had chosen him.

"Honesty and strict integrity marked his every official act. His public service was splendid but he was never able to serve himself. A man of great heart and great capabilities, he lacked a balance wheel. In his going from us as well as in his life with us, I am glad to remember him as my friend."

## AN INCIDENT IN 1865

By George W. Crane

**W**HILE the editors of this volume were getting together the material for its pages, we had occasion to write to Geo. W. Crane & Co., publishers, of Topeka, Kansas, to get permission to run the story of "Old Jim Gibson." We received the following letter from Mr. Crane in regard to the story and he adds a very interesting story of days before Barton County had begun to be settled. The story of Jim Gibson will be found on page 151.

Topeka, Kans., June 24, 1912.

Tribune Publishing Co, Great Bend, Kansas. Dear Mr. Townsley: Responding to yours of the 21st, we say, yes. Use the story of Old Jim Gibson. It would be proper to add "From the Tales of the Trail by permission of Crane & Co."

An incident occurred while I was at Fort Larned in 1865, which always comes to me as illustrating the trait of the Anglo-Saxon to be cool and collected in times of great danger.

Dr. McNeal, the post surgeon at Fort Larned was, with a dozen soldiers, escorting a train from Fort Zarah. About at the west line of Barton County they were attacked by a band of Indians. The train was corralled and it was agreed that whoever saw an opening should make the race through the Indian lines. The doctor was well mounted; he saw an opening and made the race.

Bullets and arrows blew thick around him but he got through safely. He reached the trail by a circuitous route and immediately saw two couriers who had been killed, stripped and scalped. He hurried on to the Post, and returned with a company of cavalry. No more Indians were seen. They picked up the dead couriers and conveyed them to Fort Larned in an ambulance. The doctor dressed them for burial and after all was attended to came to the Suttler's store and asked me for a glass of whisky. I handed him a bottle and large goblet. He was trembling and very pale. He took care of two gobletsful quickly. I asked what was the matter and if he was seriously hurt. "No, George, I am simply scared to death." He soon recovered composure but retained the opinion that he was scared to death.

"And so it is, at times of extreme danger and when action is necessary, we are cool and nerved to perform the duty. When the trouble is all over and the nerves subside, we are liable to go to pieces.

"This story I am writing, Townsley, is partly to illustrate a trait of character but principally as a reminiscence of the Old Trail in 1865.

Very truly yours,  
GEO. W. CRANE."

## PLEASANTDALE—(Schoenthal)

**P**LEASANTDALE or Schoenthal, as it is called in German, was the name of a village established by the colony of German emigrants who arrived in Barton County in the 70's and located on the Smoky river in Rush County and near what is now the town of Olmitz in Barton County. The following story of the settlement is given as told by Peter Brack, one of the members of the colony and now a prosperous merchant of Barton County.

About 186 years ago by the provisions of

an edict issued by the Czarwitch Katherine of Russia, thousands of Germans moved from their native land into the domain of the Czarwitch. They were induced to make the change on account of the fact that Katherine had promised them exemption from military duty, gave them tools with which to till the land and by other provisions made what seemed at that time an excellent opportunity. However, Alexander, the third ruler of Russia after Katherine took away these privileges, destroying the royal edict and the luckless Germans

were compelled to serve in the army and other privileges were taken away. By this action on the part of Alexander, the liberty loving people who were affected by the new order of things, at once rebelled and decided that they would again seek freedom and opportunity in another land. Accordingly they emigrated to the United States. A colony was made up in the village of Popotchnaja which included a large number of the members of the Brack family—now well known in this county—and forty-seven other families, making in all a total of 527 people. These hard working, persecuted people left their adopted land September 8, 1876. They were compelled to pay \$100 each for passports, when the price should have been not more than \$10. They went first to Bremen, the trip requiring two weeks time and there waited for the boats that were to bring them to the new country. The leaders of the party, after a great deal of effort succeeded in getting the steamship companies interested to the extent that many of them wanted the business and therefore the emigrants were enabled to get a rate of (32 rubles) about \$16.00 each for passage, but what the company lost in making this comparatively low rate they made up by charging big prices for everything on the trip over. The emigrants sailed on the ship "Salle" and arrived in New York October 21, 1876. They spent but one day in the big American city changing their Russian money for American bills and coin, and then started for Kansas City.

Long before the emigrants arrived in this country they had made up their minds to locate near Great Bend, Kansas, having heard good news from friends who were already located. The fare from New York to Kansas City was sixteen dollars. Upon their arrival they were besieged by agents of the Union Pacific and Santa Fe railroads. These agents were both German, one by the name of Smith, representing the U. P. and the other being a Mr. Reigleheimer. Each wanted the big party of emigrants on the line of their respective roads. Finally an offer of the Santa Fe of free transportation to Lawrence, Kansas, was accepted. After their arrival there they occupied an old factory building, sleeping on the ground and cooking food as best they could. At Lawrence a meeting was held which resulted in the selection of eight men, known for their ability in judging soil, to go to points on the U. P. and select a location. This party was taken all over Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas, as far west as the Colorado line. The U. P. company paid all the expenses of this trip which required about ten days time after which the party returned to Lawrence. Then the Santa Fe company took the same representatives out on the same kind of a trip. The eight men on their return reported that the best soil they could find adapted to wheat raising was between Russell, in Russell county, and Pawnee Rock, in Barton County. As all

the members of the party wanted to be on a river the colony was divided, half going to Russell on the Smoky river and the other half to Pawnee Rock on the Arkansas river. By the time they had all secured homesteads between these two points they were practically in one community. The members of the colony who arrived at Pawnee Rock lived in a big emigrant house, formerly used as a saw mill where they were making trips to Larned and Hays City where they had business at the land offices. After about three weeks most of the colonists had obtained land. Mrs. Brack, Peter Brack's mother, having bought seven quarters for \$7,000. At this time Charles Lindas was running a big store at Pawnee Rock and he got most of the trade from the colony. Many of the emigrants paid the railroad company \$5.00 per acre for land which it was afterwards learned could have been purchased for \$2.50 direct from the company, the increase in the price being the profit of the agents. During the first winter after their arrival the members of the colony held a meeting to decide on building together in a village, as was the custom in the old country.

It was the intention to have a set of officers, schools, etc., as near like the custom in the old country as possible. Therefore a site was selected on section 11-17-16, just across the line in Rush county. It was given the name of Schoenthal, which in English means Pleasantdale, and for a year and a half the little village prospered, but the residents finally learned that to prove up on a homestead it was necessary that the homesteader live on his own quarter, therefore Pleasantdale was abandoned and the settlers took up their residence on their own land. After about four years, the colony by hauling rock to Otis were enabled to build a church, and even after the town of Pleasantdale was abandoned the church was and still is maintained. During the first few years of work done by the colony the returns were poor, crops did not grow as well as could be expected and it was only those who were possessed of oxen who could accomplish much in the way of development work. Those who owned beasts of burden helped their neighbors. The Brack family in the years 1877-78 got fairly good returns, raising about forty bushels of wheat to an acre, for which they received \$1.15 per bushel.

During the first ten years many of the men members of the colony went away and worked on the railroad grades and in that way kept their families alive. In this way they struggled along until some of them were enabled to prove up on their land, and they then began to borrow money and buy horses and other animals so that they could farm with better results. Many of the settlers thought they had accomplished a great deal when after proving up on their land they were enabled to borrow \$800; some of them taking the mortgage money and left thinking they had done well. However, most of them stayed, and a majority of those

who went away came back broke and began all over again. There were incidents of people trading their homestead for a cheap shotgun or some such article of about the same value. There was one man who traded his quarter for an \$8 watch and said it didn't cost him much as it only cost him four dollars at that, meaning that he had paid that much to prove up after five years on the land. It was the custom of these people for the bride's parents to take a newly married couple into the groom's home, and as a result of this the Brack brothers' mother had thirty-six in her family at one time. The oldest of the Brack boys was a

leader in the community, and after about ten years residence in this country he had saved a little money, sufficient to buy some quarters adjoining his land near Olmitz. Then Mr. Brack began to send back to the old country for friends and relatives and when they arrived here they would be given land with a chance to pay for it on easy terms and since that time the community around Olmitz, Albert and in that part of Barton County has grown and prospered but the little village of Pleasantsdale has passed away and remains only as a memory with those who made the trip on the Salle in 1875.

The following were the members of the colony from Russia that founded the village of Schoenthal near Olmitz:

Elizabeth Brack and three married sons.  
 Henry W. Brack and wife, Marilies and four children.  
 George Brack and wife, Marick and one child.  
 Peter Brack and wife, Sophia.  
 Phillip Brack, single.  
 Johanna Brack and wife, Justine and two married sons.  
 Phillip Brack and wife, Christine and two children.  
 Heinrich Brack.  
 J. H. Brack and wife, Krethe.  
 J. C. Brack, single.  
 Peter J. Brack, single.  
 John Brack, single.  
 Kate Brack, single.  
 Phillip Hergert, wife and son-in-law.  
 Hy Schenerman, wife and several children.  
 Adam Hergert, wife and several children.  
 Philopp Peter Kleweno, wife and son.  
 Henry Kleweno, wife and son-in-law.  
 Henry Rapp, wife and several children.  
 Christian Kleweno, wife and children.  
 Johannes Schenerman, wife and children.  
 George Schenerman, wife and children.  
 Heinrich Schenerman, wife and one child.  
 Conrad Schenerman, wife and children.  
 Adam Schenerman, wife and two children.  
 Karl Goetz and wife.  
 John Weigant, wife and two children.

Phillip Hardman, wife and children.  
 Andrew Lesser, wife and children.  
 David Lesser and wife.  
 Adam Ruhl, wife and one child.  
 Johannes Kleweno, wife and two children.  
 Johannes Stang, wife and one child.  
 Johannes Miller and wife.  
 Conrad Schenerman, wife and one child.  
 Heinrich Schenerman, wife and four children.  
 Conrad Schenerman and wife.  
 Conrad Wilhelm, single.  
 Dominick Burghart, wife and two children.

Of the names mentioned in the above list many have left this part of the country and gone to other points. The last mentioned, Dominick Burghart, was the village blacksmith and tinner in Schoenthal for several years. Later he and his wife went back to Austria but the children, Frank and Rachel are both married and living in this state. Many of the Schenermans, Klewenos and Millers, Ochs and Schlegels have gone to the western part of the country.

Those who have remained in Barton County are still living are as a rule well fixed and contented. Of course many of them have died during the years since Schoenthal was established, but their children are still here to go on with the work of building a home under more desirable conditions than those which caused them to leave their fatherland for the new world.





## C. F. DIFFENBACHER

**A**MONG the old timers of Barton County who took an active part in the political and general history of the county was C. F. Diffenbacher. He was born April 5, 1835, in Pennsylvania and came west in 1856. He settled in Illinois and for several years taught school in that state. When the civil war began Mr. Diffenbacher enlisted and was discharged at the end of the war as First Lieutenant Company G, 18th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. During his residence in Illinois he held several positions of trust among them being assistant revenue assessor for the 9th Congressional District of the state, having received this appointment from President Andrew Johnston. He resigned this office in September, 1868 to run for the office of clerk of the circuit court and ex-officio recorder of Cass County. He was elected and served several years. Mr. Diffenbacher came to Great Bend in 1873, his family following in 1874. Before coming to Kansas he studied law in the office of Pollard & Phillips of Beardstown, Illinois and was admitted to the bar after coming to Kansas. For a number of years he practiced in the state and federal courts of the state and for some time was associated with G. W. Nimocks in the law business. In 1884 he formed a partnership with D. A. Banta which continued until the campaign of 1896.

Mr. Diffenbacher was elected mayor of Great Bend in 1876. (His administration is mentioned more fully in the article in this book under the head of Political History of Great Bend.) In 1889 he was elected a member of the board of education and served two terms. At different times he held the offices of county attorney, 1882-84; was chosen delegate from the 7th congressional district of Kansas to the national Democratic convention at Chicago and helped to nominate Grover Cleveland for the presidency; he was the nominee of the Democratic party for attorney general in 1886; a candidate for county attorney in 1890; was a delegate to the convention that nominated Wm. Jennings Bryan the first time for the presidency. He was married to Harriet Smith of Princeton, Illinois, September 1, 1859, and they were the parents of seven children: Mrs. E. C. Kent, of Clinton, Mo., Mrs. J. S. Ewalt of Springdale, Arkansas; Howard Diffenbacher of Slater, Mo., and Harry Diffenbacher of Barton County, survived their father while those who went before him were Mrs. Lucy Brands, Dora and Frederick. Mr. Diffenbacher was a man who made a great many friends and his death which occurred in March, 1907, was the cause of a great deal of sorrow in the community.

## GEORGE W. NIMOCKS

**G**EORGE W. NIMOCKS was born in Jefferson County, Iowa, May 31, 1844. He received his early education and grew to manhood in his native state. He came to Kansas in 1872 and immediately located at Great Bend where he was known and respected as a good citizen, an able lawyer and a most estimable neighbor. He was appointed county attorney of Barton County after its organization in 1872 and always thereafter took a great interest in the politics and general life of the county. He was married in 1872 to Miss Elvira Newell of Ottumwa, Iowa and to this union there were born five children: Blanche, Gertrude, Retta, George W. jr., and Dale. Blanche is now the wife of Dr. B. A. Gardner of Great Bend, Gertrude is now Mrs. Charles Walker, living in California; Retta is now Mrs. Lynn Dana of Warren, O.; George, jr., is a banker living in Scandia, Kansas, and Dale is the wife of J. H. Hartman of Hoisington. Mr. Nimocks' early life was spent on a farm where he attended the district school and before he had attained his majority he joined the union army and served faithfully until the close of the war. After he had returned home from his military service he attended the Iowa State University in which institution he received the degree of Bachelor of Law, June 28, 1871. In July 1872, he, with a team and wagon, a few

law books and some personal effects, landed in Great Bend. The county had just been organized and soon after his arrival he was appointed to the office of county attorney, which position he filled with fidelity and credit. He also filled the same office by election a number of terms before his death. He was the first judge of this judicial district. He filled many other positions of trust with great credit to himself and his friends. Great Bend was his home from the time of his arrival in the county until his death which occurred in February, 1905. He practiced his profession all of the time in Great Bend. He was present and participated in every term of court until his death. The following is quoted from one of the newspapers published in Great Bend at the time of his death:

"In the death of Judge Nimocks this community and state lost a worthy citizen. His neighbors and friends a truly good friend, the law an able, upright and worthy member and his clients an attorney and friend who never forgot their interests or the duty he owed them. He among his associates and friends was open and frank and was loyally loved by them, and his enemies respected him for his true and noble qualities. His honor was never questioned and his loyalty to his friends never doubted."

## ANDREW SEIBERT---"Dundee Valley Farm"

**S**OME of the most progressive of Barton County's citizens are Russia born, and, coming to this county when land was cheap now ride in their automobiles and take life easy. Of this class is Andrew Seibert, seven miles southwest of Great Bend. He was born February 25, 1870, on a farm in Russia, and came to America with his parents, Andrew and Luffintine Seibert, in the fall of 1874. They first settled east of Dundee, and later moved to Rush County, but at this time they reside in Barton County, Kansas. Andrew, jr., was educated in the public schools of this state and became a successful farmer under the instruction of his father, and in 1890, when he began farming on his own account was well qualified to meet the obstacles in front of him. He at first rented the one hundred and sixty acre farm which he has owned for years, and began life on his own account with little beside a good team. The first two years were reasonably successful and he determined to buy

and get married and this he did. Then followed the bad years from 1893 to 1896, and failure seemed to stare him in the face. His little all was invested and he could not leave; and so he stayed on and by courage and determination won.

The farm is in a high state of cultivation and the improvements are good. The house is a one and one-half story frame with eight large rooms. There is a nice grass plot in front enclosed by a neat fence, and in it are many plants, shrubs and flowers. At the back is an acre of towering boxelder trees which furnish shade. The barn is 14x32, and the cow shed 12x32. Then come the automobile garage, granary, chicken house and other out-buildings, which form a comfortable picture.

Andrew Seibert and Miss Carrie Beese of Barton County, were married on October 23, 1892, and they have been blessed by three interesting children: Elvena May, 14; Grant Louis, 11; and Victor Charles, 6.

## LOUIS DAMM---"Fairfield Farm"

**T**HOUGH he had no choice in the matter of seeking a new home, Louis Damm has never regreted the choice of his parents which led them to emigrate from Germany when he was only 1 year of age and come to America. He was born October 16, 1863, in the Rhine country of Germany and in 1864 the family moved to the United States, settling in Ohio where they lived for 11 years. The Santa Fe railroad was built across Kansas in 1872 and stories of the great fertile plains here were the talk of the day in the east. Two years later, in 1874, the family moved to this country where the parents, Peter A. and Elizabeth Damm, bought the Chas. Rose homestead, west of town, for \$1,100. It was a good price in those days and values fluctuated for a number of years so that it was problemat-

ical whether too much had been paid or not. The value today has extended itself ten times, it might be remarked in passing.

Louis and brother assisted the parents in farming the place and in 1888 Louis was married to Miss Caroline Windhorst, of Germany. A year later both parents died and Louis and wife assumed the management of this farm which they still own and which is one of the most productive pieces of land in the county. To them have been born three children, Henry Louis, age 20, Lillie, age 11 and Minnie Esther, age 9. The parents have provided well for their children. They knew the hardships of the earlier years and profiting thereby have lived carefully and frugally and have farmed the place to good advantage. They live six and one-half miles west of Great Bend.

## MAX CRESTON SHAFER

**M**AX CRESTON SHAFER was born March 1, 1861, at Ashland, Ohio. He came direct to Kansas from his native state in 1884 and located at Seneca where he remained a short time after which he went to Iowa. Like many others who have lived a short time in the Sunflower state and left he returned in about a year and located in Barton County where he has since resided. For ten years he was engaged in the mercantile business in Great Bend and Claflin but recently it has required most of his time to look af-

ter his farming interests. He owns a quarter section of good land in Union township and a like amount in South Bend township. All of this land is being cultivated and worked by renters. Mr. Shafer has made a study of farming and is recognized as an authority on this horticultural when they apply to this county. He came to this county at a time when it required knowledge and study to get the best results from farming and Mr. Shafer has profited by this fact and made a study of farming methods in all branches that apply to the soil.

and conditions in this country. He was married July 8, 1892, to Mrs. Anna Bell and they occupy a fine modern residence at 2915 Broadway in Great Bend. The residence contains seven rooms, bath and all the necessary closets and a room that is given over to Mr. Shafer as a den. Mrs. Shafer is the mother of three children, Emma Bell, who is now Mrs. W. W. Garry, 39 years of age, of Wichita, Kansas; Ray, 30 years of age, in the cattle business in Mexico, and Lee, 28 years of age, is farming in Stafford County. Mr. Shafer is an enterprising and progressive citizen and has had a

great deal to do with the upbuilding and development of the county's resources since he came to this section of the state.

Mrs. Shafer and her former husband, Mr. Bell, ran the old Southern Hotel and for a time Mrs. Shafer taught school in the city of Great Bend and many of the best known men and women in Great Bend today are former pupils of Mrs. Shafer. Mr. Bell's death was the cause of a great deal of sorrow in this community as he was a popular and well known citizen and always took a leading part in the affairs of the town and county.

## HUGH B. BYERS

OF the old timers who came to Barton County in the 70's none is better known than Hugh B. Byers whose home place is the southeast quarter of section 36 in Eureka township and in addition to this land Mr. Byers rents 160 acres more which he also farms. He was born in Jones County, Iowa, August 24, 1859, and came to Barton County in 1876. He has been actively engaged in farming since that time and is one of those men who made this county one of the best in the State of Kansas. He was married October 1, 1884, to Miss Matilda Wilkins, who is a daughter of John Wilkins, who located in this county north of Ellinwood in 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Byers are the parents of eight children as follows: Grace, 26 years of age, is now Mrs. A. A. Smith of Kingman County; Aletha, 21 years of age; Earl, 21 years; Pearl, 19 years; Hal, 15 years; Marion, 12 years; Stella, 9 years and

Charles, 6 years of age. All the children are residing at home with the exception of the first named. The residence which is beautifully situated, consists of eight rooms in addition to bath, closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 32 feet square and the other outbuildings, including granary, sheds, etc., are well and substantially built. With all Mr. Byers' private business, he has found time to take an active part in the affairs of his township and has held the office of trustee as well as being a member of the school board. He is an enterprising and progressive citizen and one of the best known old timers in the county who are still actively engaged in farming in Eureka township. It is to such men as Mr. Byers that the County of Barton owes its high standing among the best in the State of Kansas as well as being one of the most important agricultural sections of the country.

## TOBIAS B. UNRUH

TOBIAS B. UNRUH was born in West Russia, in 1862, and came to America with his parents in 1874. They located east of Dundee in this county and immediately began the development of the land. Mr. Unruh was married in 1885 to Miss Eva Jontz. They are the parents of seven children: Albert, 24 years; Lydia, 22 years; Annie, 19 years; Gilbert, 17 years; Clara, 15 years; Edna, 13 years; Ira, 6 years. Mr. Unruh owns 1,200 acres of land, all of which is under cultivation, being rented or farmed by himself. The home place, which is occupied by Mr. Unruh, is owned by his father who is now engaged in the farming business in the State of Oregon. Mr. Unruh has always been an active citizen and takes a great interest in all matters that pertain to the better-

ment of the country. He is now serving his second term as a trustee of Liberty township. He has twice been appointed deputy assessor for his district and is counted one of the most substantial citizens of that section of Barton County. Mr. Unruh's home place is well stocked with cattle and horses and the improvements are of the best to be found in the county. Mr. Unruh's history in this county began at a time when the future of the western part of Kansas was anything but bright. However, he is made of the kind of material that it required of the old timers to bring this county to its present standing among the counties of the state. Mr. Unruh is an enterprising and progressive citizen and is entitled to all the success he has achieved.

## JOHN WILSON DENBO

**J**OHN WILSON DENBO was born May 22, 1847, in Crawford County, Indiana, where he remained until 1880, when he came to Kansas and located in Atchison County, where he resided for six years before coming to Barton County. Upon his arrival here he purchased 160 acres of land in section 26 in South Bend township. His land comprises the southwest quarter of this section, all of which is being farmed under Mr. Denbo's supervision. Mr. Denbo was married in 1890 to Miss Marguerite L. Hawk of Atchison and they are the parents of six children as follows: Edna, 21 years of age; Vernon, 20 years of age; Edith, 17 years of age; Clarence, 14 years of age; Hazel, 13 years of age and Chester, who died December 9, 1910. The home place is located about nine miles southeast of Great Bend and it is Mr. Denbo's intention to erect a new, modern residence within the very near future.

The home now consists of four rooms with closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 40 by 56 feet in dimensions. The other improvements consist of granaries and other outbuildings that are needed for successful farm management. Mr. Denbo enlisted in the 144th Indiana Regiment January 31, 1864, and was honorably discharged August 5, 1865. In addition to the home place Mr. Denbo owns the northwest quarter of section 27, in South Bend township, and 240 acres of land in Gray County, Kansas. Mr. Denbo farms all the land in South Bend which altogether makes a total of 320 acres. Mr. Denbo farms according to best methods, having gained by experience the knowledge that can be obtained only by experiencing the years, both good and poor that have made the agricultural history of the country since he came to the County of Barton.

## SAMUEL BENJAMIN COMFORT

**S**AMUEL BENJAMIN COMFORT was born near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 26, 1857. He remained in his native state until he was eighteen years of age and then went to Nevada where he resided for four years. He then came to Kansas and located in Barton County on what is now his home place, in section 18 of Great Bend township, where he owns and farms 300 acres of land. He was married in 1886 to Miss Annie Majors and they are the parents of two children: May, 24 years of age, is now Mrs. Edward Hermis, of Ellinwood, and Bernard, who is 19 years of age, aids his father in the operation of the farm. The home place has on it a neat, well arranged residence that contains eight rooms in addition to closets, pantries, etc. The barn is well built and is 30 by 52 feet in dimensions and there are also found on the place all the necessary outbuildings including granaries, etc. Mr. Comfort was raised on a farm and

has learned by experience the best methods to be applied under the conditions to be found in this section of the country. Mr. Comfort came to this county when it required men of knowledge to get anything like results from the soil while it was in the condition found by the early settlers. Mr. Comfort is one of that number of old timers who raised this county from a barren waste to its present high state of cultivation. It was men like Mr. Comfort who had unflinching faith in the future who took the bad years with the good and made them average enough profit to peg along and enable them to build homes and reclaim the soil from the Indians and buffalo. Mr. Comfort had no small part in developing the resources of the county and it is to him and those who came at the same time that Barton County owes its high standing among the best counties of the state of Kansas and the entire country.

## FRANK NICHOLAS BATCHMAN

**F**RANK NICHOLAS BATCHMAN was born December 6, 1867, in Sandusky, Ohio. He came to Barton County with his parents in 1878. His father, Jacob Batchman, bought land and immediately began the cultivation of the soil. The subject of this sketch went to school for several years and took up the same occupation as that followed by his father and his home place is now one of the most desirably located in Comanche township. The home place consists of 160 acres in section 19. In addition to this land Mr. Batch-

man owns and farms 40 acres of land adjoining his on the north. He was married in 1886 at Ellinwood to Miss Lillie Wenders. To this union there were born two children: Ethel, 25 years of age, who resides north of Great Bend and Mabel, 22 years of age, is now Mrs. V. Dantzman and resides near St. John Kansas. Mr. Batchman survived his first wife and was married to Miss Louise Scott of Ellinwood. They are the parents of six children: Fred, 13; Doug, 10; Frank S., Alfred L., and Lila, 5 years of age. Also a daughter



students in the schools of Barton County. The residence is located on a high spot of ground and consists of six rooms in addition to the closets and pantries. The barn is 40 by 44 feet in dimensions and has a large loft. A small orchard is found on the home place

where trees representing nearly all varieties of fruits, common to this section, are raised. Mr. Batchman has a good grade of cattle and horses and is an enterprising and progressive farmer and has taken a large part in developing that part of the county lying south of the river.

## DENNIS RUDOLPH LOGAN

**D**ENNIS RUDOLPH LOGAN was born August 22, 1848, in Huntington County, Pa. He came to Barton County in 1872 and located a homestead near Pawnee Rock, it being the southeast quarter of 32-15-20. He proved up on this claim, residing there four years. Then he went to Barber County where he was in the cattle business for two years. At the end of this time he returned to Pawnee Rock and formed a partnership with Chas. Gano. This partnership continued for several years when Mr. Gano sold out to E. W. Smith. The firm of Logan & Smith continued for several years in the same business after which Mr. Logan became the sole owner of the store which carried a fine line of general merchandise. Mr. Logan has been engaged in mercantile trade in the town of Pawnee Rock for thirty-five years and at the present time owns a big general store and a completely stocked furniture store both of which are under his personal management. Mr. Logan was married to Maggie T. Mardis of Johnson County, Kansas, July 25, 1847. They are the parents of six children: Earl, 29, assists his father in the management of his business interests; Helen, 15 years of age, resides at home and is being educated in the schools of the county; Arthur, 17; Lloyd, six months. Effie, three years and

Roy, two years, died at the ages given. The cause of their deaths being an affection of the throat which was so common among the children of this section in the 80's. Mr. Logan has always taken an active part in the upbuilding of Pawnee Rock and the development of this section of the county. In addition to his business interests, Mr. Logan owns a fine modern residence containing nine rooms, bath, closets, etc. Several town lots and 60 acres of farming land which is being cultivated by renters. He is vice-president and a director of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and owns both the business houses which are occupied by his stores. Mr. Logan is one of these pioneers who came to this county at a time when it required nerve and great faith in the future to remain here and withstand the hardships incident to home building and development work at that time in the State of Kansas. Mrs. Logan enjoys the distinction of having been mayor of Pawnee Rock. She is one of the few women in the State of Kansas who has held the highest office in a municipality. The Logan family is one of the best known in Barton County and Mr. Logan is especially well known in commercial circles and has done a great deal to make Barton County one of the best in the State of Kansas.

## HENRY GAGELMAN

**H**ENRY GAGELMAN was born in Prussia in 1854, and came to this country with his parents in 1864. He followed his brother William west, coming to Barton County in 1887, ten years after William had arrived. He bought railroad land and like his brother, became one of the substantial citizens of the county. He remained on his farm twenty-three years and cultivated the soil and during that time he accumulated 100 acres of land which he still owns. Since his retirement from the farming business in 1910, the land has been cultivated and managed by his sons. Henry Gagelman was married to Miss Adele Buscher in 1882 and they now have five children as follows: William F., 27 years; Edward W., 25 years; Annie, 23; Lillie, 21; and August, 19 years. Of these, William, Edward and Lillie are married and all five of them are living in Barton County. Mr. Gagelman owns a fine,

modern residence at 2222 Broadway in Great Bend. His original home place is located thirteen miles west of Great Bend in one of the richest sections of the county. Although he has always taken an active part in any movement that was for the benefit of the country he has never mixed in politics and never held a public office of any kind. He came to this county at a time when only the stout hearted could see anything but disaster in the future, but he, like a number of the other old timers, could see the future that was in store for this county by the right kind of development work and he always took an active part in this work and his success has been due to consistent effort and a never lacking faith in the county's ultimate importance as an agricultural section second to no place in the country.

## SAMUEL H. GWINN

**“W**OODLAWN PLACE,” three and one-half miles west of Great Bend, covers two hundred acres and is the home of Samuel H. and Adda Bratton Gwinn. It is so named because of the gigantic growth of woodland surrounding the residence and covering ten acres in its immediate vicinity. The orchard is a part of this, and when in full bearing supplies much dainty fruit. The house is a large two story frame and stands well to the front, and as the location is at a turn of the main Larned road it is very conspicuous. Well back in the rear is a large barn and other outbuildings, and across the roadway are still others. There are fifty acres in pasture lands, and on it graze many cattle. In fact, Mr. Gwinn divides his time between farming and breeding bovines, and when crops are good grows, buys and feeds quite a few. The near

proximity of this farm to the city, its immense growth of timber and its high state of cultivation makes this one of the valuable and attractive farms of the section.

Samuel H. Gwinn was born July 13, 1857, in Carroll County, Indiana. He grew to manhood on a farm and received his education in the public schools of the Hoosier state. In 1878, when twenty-one year of age, he came to Barton County to begin life, and first found work as a farm hand. In 1884 he conducted a livery barn in Great Bend and in 1890 bought the two hundred acre farm on which he resides.

Samuel Gwinn and Miss Adda L. Bratton, of Great Bend, were married on August 1, 1883, and they are the parents of three living children: Fay Jennie; Edward J. and George Robert Gwinn, all residing with their parents at their home.

## JACOB ALEFS

**T**HE life story of Jacob Alefs is more of a success than of adventure, although his first recollections are so intertwined with the early history of Barton County that it is hard to separate the one from the other. He came to the county when about thirteen years of age, accompanying his parents, Henry and Katherine Alefs, who settled on two quarters of land in the Cheyenne Bottoms, seven miles north of Great Bend. The father and mother were German, born and bred and the family that crossed the ocean in 1860 were the parents, a brother, John, and little Jacob, only seven months old. They first settled in Michigan, then in Chicago, where the father owned a furniture store. This was burned in the great Chicago fire and shortly after, in 1873, the family came to this county to make a new home. The father's health soon became impaired and at the age of sixteen the management of the farm fell to Jacob and he was the main support of the family until their death. Henry Alefs dying in 1884, and Mrs. Katherine Alefs on September 13th, 1887. The death of an only brother, John Alefs, occurred on January 31st, 1888, and Jacob Alefs became possessed of the lands and property of the deceased. He had, however, begun farming on

his own account in 1884 and was fast laying the foundation for the fortune he has since acquired, and this rugged education and preparation for the handling of a large landed estate has probably been the chief reason for his success. It has been acquired by great effort and self denial and he richly deserves the retirement he no doubt longs for.

Jacob Alefs owns and farms eleven hundred and twenty acres of the best wheat, corn and alfalfa land in the county. It is located four and one-half miles northwest of Great Bend, and is practically in one body. It is in a high state of cultivation and the buildings, fences, etc., are in good repair. The residence is a two-story frame, containing twelve rooms and a hall; it is enclosed within a neat yard and this plot is set with grass, shrubs and flowers. The large barn, granary, elevator and other buildings cluster about and they are all painted so tastefully that they harmonize with the green foliage of the trees which park the whole surroundings.

Jacob Alefs and Miss Elizabeth Miller were united in marriage on August 13th, 1884 and they have had four children. Two died in infancy, and Daniel Alefs 18, and Max Alefs, 11, add sunshine to the home.

## PATRICK EMMET MURPHY

THE life story of Patrick Emmet Murphy would be unusual in any other country than this where it seems all are self-made; but when spread on paper and the rough places glossed over one can read between the lines the struggles and hardships he and his family must have endured while making their start in this county. He landed at the depot in Great Bend in the spring of 1884 with his household goods, a team of mules and two cows, and when he had paid the freight had but one dollar left with which to begin his struggle for existence. Land was plentiful and tenants in demand and he soon had his family located and began the fight. When harvest came he worked for seventeen days with his team at good wages, and during the first year as a renter he kept things going by working for others when opportunity offered. The second year he decided to purchase railroad land—the price being around ten dollars per acre; divided into eleven yearly payments. To make this trade he had to raise \$136 for the first payment. Fortunately one hundred of this could be had, but the other \$36 was, as he first thought, an impossibility. Finally by mortgaging his mule team and paying 36 per cent interest, he secured the loan and became possessed of the first quarter section of his present farm of three hundred and twenty acres. Since then life has been less strenuous, and his farm has been made one of the

most fertile and best improved of his neighborhood, which is seven miles southwest from Great Bend. He has built there a two and one-half story frame, with nine large rooms, grown a grove of three acres of beautiful forest trees, has a barn 40x40, a cow barn 18x28, and numerous other outbuildings.

Patrick E. Murphy was born on August 10, 1856, near Montreal, Canada, and in 1866 came to Chillicothe, Mo., with his parents, John and Margaret Murphy, where they settled on a farm. There he was educated and remained until coming to Barton County, Kansas, on March 7, 1884. In addition to conducting his farm Mr. Murphy has been manager of the Moses Bros.' elevator at Dundee for thirteen years, and was elected commissioner of the Third district in 1908. His term is for four years and expires this year. He will no doubt be retained as his duties have been performed conscientiously and to the satisfaction of all.

Patrick E. Murphy was married on January 10, 1882, to Miss Margaret Theresa Welch, of Livingston County, Mo., and they are the parents of ten children: Mrs. Catherine Keenan, of Liberty township; Thomas Emmet and John Francis Murphy, conducting a grocery store at Hoisington; Mary Magdaline, Agnes Bernadine, Ralph Michael, Margaret Grace, William Walter, Lawrence Patrick and Edward Mathew all living at home.

## HENRY JAMES CAMPBELL

HENRY JAMES CAMPBELL was born September 17, 1862, in Stark County Illinois. He remained in his native state until he was twelve years of age when he came to Barton County. He was accompanied by his father, they having made the trip from Illinois in a wagon. They located on the John Atkin farm in Clarence township. Henry's first work was on Ellinwood-McPherson branch of the Santa Fe Railroad. He began farming for himself when he was nineteen years old. He now farms 560 acres of land in this county and owns three quarters in Rush County and a section in Ford County. He was married in 1889 to Miss Mary Merten and they are the parents of four children. Mrs. Campbell's parents are old timers of the county and are mentioned in another part of this book. The children are: Arthur, 22 years of age, is farming near Spearville; Frank, 20 years of age, Leslie, 19 years of age and Nellie, 14 years of age are

living at home. Mr. Campbell is one of those men who came here when he was but a child and has seen the country grow from an abode of buffalo and Indians to its present high state of cultivation. He is one of the large number of younger farmers who have taken up the work of developing the soil where their elders left off and are maintaining its high standing among the best counties of the State of Kansas. Mr. Campbell's home place is well located and is surrounded by fine shade and ornamental trees. The residence contains seven rooms besides the closets, pantries, etc. The barn is 60 by 28 feet in dimensions, is well built and has a great deal of room. Mr. Campbell has found time to take an active part in the affairs of the community and has served on the school board as well as having held township offices. Mr. Campbell is one of the best known men in that part of the county and is an enterprising and progressive citizen.

## JOHN TULLIS MORRISON

**B**EFORE becoming a peaceful farmer and retiring to Great Bend John T. Morrison was a member of Co. H, 13th Missouri Cavalry and he served in the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Colorado and Wyoming during the war of the rebellion, 1861-5, and participated in a number of battles, but as his regiment was stationed for the greater part of the time on the frontier their duty was to protect the lives of citizens from the depredations of the Indians on the border. In 1865 he found himself stationed at Ft. Zarah where the city of Great Bend has since been built, and he now claims an earlier knowledge of this section than is possessed by those who came later. In describing the country he says it was a barren waste, covered with tufts of buffalo grass and inhabited by Indians, prairie dogs and ant beds. That there was little timber on the streams, and one taking a position about where the court house now stands, the barren mounds of sand across on the south side of the river looked like shocks of wheat. Rattle snakes, wolves, antelope and buffalo were too numerous to be comfortable, and the latter were so thick that one in a low place often

mistook a herd on a rise in the distance for a cloud or coming storm.

John T. Morrison was born May 20, 1842, in Gurnsey County, Ohio, on a farm, and at two years of age his parents moved to Wayne County, Iowa. While receiving his schooling at the public schools of his district he worked for his father on the farm, and in 1861 volunteered as a soldier and joined the 13th Missouri Cavalry. Three years after the close of the war, on January 26th, 1868, he married Miss Clarisa E. Ormsby, of Wayne County, Iowa, and they are the parents of five sons: Dr. Elmer E. Morrison, of Great Bend; Thomas C. Morrison, merchant, Hoisington; Sydney M. Morrison, who died in 1903; John C. Morrison, civil engineer, supposed to be in the Klondyke country, and Clarence E. Morrison, jeweler, of County, Kansas, in the fall of 1878, and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Fairview township, and later purchased another quarter of school land. He also owns his residence at the corner of Kansas Avenue and Eighth street, and he and his estimable wife take life easy.

## DANIEL MILLER, Sr.

**F**OUR miles northwest of Great Bend is the 80 acre homestead of Jake Miller, now the property of Daniel Miller, Sr. It is a comfortable little body of land and is a high state of cultivation. About two acres is set in orchard; a part in timothy and alfalfa and the remainder reserved for corn and wheat. It is enclosed with stone posts and wired, and then divided into fields of the most convenient size. There has been no attempt at display in the erection of the improvements, yet every convenience necessary for the comfort of man and beast is there to be found. It represents the life work of a man born on a farm, who expects to die as he has lived. To part Mr. Miller from the soil which he loves would be cruel, but to separate him from the breeding and feeding of horses, cattle and hogs would be a crime. He was born March 11, 1842, and is 70 years of age. The first twenty years were passed on a farm in Pennsylvania, the next nineteen on a farm in Ohio, and the past thirty-three years improving the farm on which he now resides.

On March 25, 1878, when Daniel Miller, Sr., came to Barton County and took possession of this place he had little besides the bare land, a wife and a large flock of youngsters. If the crops failed, which was not unusual, he knew that he would have to face a condition, and not a theory. Remembering that once in Ohio he had followed butchering for a time, Mrs. Miller suggested that he take up that calling in

addition to his farm work and he decided to do so provided he could induce some good soul to trust him for the first animal to be slaughtered. John Cook, Sr., now deceased, sold him a steer for \$15, and when dressed and skinned netted a profit of \$7.00. Then others were bought and killed and a business established that fed the wife and little ones, and at the same time proved that Mr. Miller understood the buying, selling and slaughtering of stock, and that he was prompt pay and worthy to be trusted. John V. Brinkman became advised of this and when Dan Miller decided that there was money to be made in buying, feeding and shipping cattle and hogs to the market asked him with what money he desired. He then began buying and shipping, and was soon known as "Miller, the cattle man." He was in several counties, and it is said that he was the first man to ship in car lots from Barton County. He has not become as wealthy as some, yet for honest dealing he stands at the top, and we consider that his life work has been a grand success.

He married Mrs. Margaret L. (Loring) Hartman early in life, and from their union seven children were born: Mrs. L. A. (Aunt) Warren, Miller, Mrs. Chas. Gidner, Arthur Miller, Mrs. William Schroeder, Dan, Miller, Jr., and Mrs. Jas. A. Curry. Robert Miller, Mrs. Ed. Smith, and Mrs. Walter Boye. They are all robust, vigorous and healthy and located within a short drive of the old homestead.



## JUDGE CHANNEL P. TOWNSLEY

THE ancestors of the subject of this sketch were of English origin. His father was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, his mother, Mary Griffin, in Baltimore, Maryland. When sixteen years of age, his father entered the American navy, and after four years' service, he engaged in whaling in the Pacific ocean, during which service his vessel twice rounded Cape Horn, a very dangerous undertaking in those days. After serving a year and a half in this business he spent four years on the Sandwich Islands, being the only white man on the Islands. On his return he married and settled in Huntington, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the manufacture of carriages. From thence he removed to Pittsburg and afterwards to Boonville, Missouri, and established himself in his former business. When the gold fever broke out he joined a party of gold seekers, and crossing the plains went to California, being eventually engaged in trade with the islanders who occupied the islands between San Francisco and China. He died there in 1856.

Channel P. Townsley was born in Huntington, Pennsylvania, February 4, 1823. After the removal of his parents to Boonville, Missouri, he came under the instruction of Professor Kemper, of the Kemper Institute at that place. His vacations and leisure time he occupied in acquiring the trade of carriage making in his father's shop. After arriving in his eighteenth year he remained in Boonville one year after his father's departure for California, then went to California, Monoiteau County, Missouri, and began the manufacture of carriages at that place. Devoting his spare time to the study of law at the expiration of three years he removed to Georgetown, Pettis County, and was there admitted to the bar and began the practice of law. He became city attorney and continued his practice until 1861 when he enlisted in the 4th Regiment Missouri State Militia. He was commissioned adjutant and joining General Lyons's command was in the battle of Wilson Creek.

He served four years in the state service with the rank of captain, his regiment being most of the time engaged in defending the borders against Price's troops and ridding the state of predatory bands of guerrillas and bush-whackers.

Returning to Pettis County at the close of the war, he settled at Sedalia, and again took up the practice and profession of law. In 1886 he was elected county and city attorney and in 1867 was elected to the State Senate on the Republican ticket. He was chairman of the penitentiary committee, and a member of the judiciary committee. He was also a member of the State Agricultural College and State Normal School, being a member of the visiting committee, and also a regent of the State University. He was elected judge of the Fifth Judicial District, holding the position six years. On the expiration of his term of office

he resumed the practice of law for another year, when the Democratic party, advocating measures not in accordance with his views, naturally induced him to remove to the Republican State of Kansas.

He came to Great Bend in 1875 and started in his profession. The next year he established the "Inland Tribune." Devoting his paper to the interests of the Republican party and the farming community, he obtained for it a wide circulation throughout the Arkansas Valley, where its influence was strongly felt. He married Miss Laura A. Moses, December 7, 1865. She was a resident of Rockford, Illinois, and daughter of A. G. Moses, formerly of New York. Ten children were born to the union, five of whom are still living. They are Chan P. Townsley of New York, Mrs. E. S. Leland, of Troy, Kansas, Will Townsley, Charles Townsley and Laura Townsley of Great Bend.

As a representative of the people, Judge Townsley was deservedly popular. He was an able lawyer, keen-sighted and practical. As a resident of Barton County from the first he felt the need of letting the outside world know the advantage of county and state and he established the Inland Tribune which has grown continuously and which is a monument to him. A few years after the paper was started he changed the name to the Great Bend Tribune which name has continued.

He was noted as a writer of clear, concise English, and his editorial ability was such that the Tribune was a favorite among the reviewers of newspapers as long as he contributed to its editorial columns. He had opportunities to accept positions as editorial writer on large publications but preferred to be absolutely free, to own his own paper and to work for himself,—his family and community. He had a deep faith in the future prosperity of Kansas and never an issue of the Tribune contained a doubtful note concerning this locality. Plague or drouth might destroy crops, bad years might come, but he constantly preached the value of the land and the fact that conditions could not be bettered elsewhere. There was an optimism about the paper that undoubtedly did its share in attracting the eyes of the outside world to this locality and in a favorable way.

As an editorial writer any subject which he did not subscribe to would appear ridiculous under the shaft of his ridicule and sarcasm. As a writer on topics of national interest he was unexcelled. His knowledge of the Bible and of Shakespeare was such that he could quote from these books upon any subject. It would be hard to state in which particular he excelled. That the majority might fail to subscribe to his beliefs did not affect him. He was unswerving in his fidelity to the people, honest in his beliefs and politically often took a stand foreign to the desire of party bosses, but which in the end proved him in the right. He left his

impress upon the community in which he lived and much of the upbuilding of Barton County is due to his stand for the right, during the crucial days when it was easier to overlook such things than to take a stand against them.

The end came to him August 4, 1907, after

a period of nearly three years suffering from a nervous breakdown, during which time he tried in vain changes of climate and location to improve his health. At the time of his death he was 74 years, 5 months and 21 days of age. His widow and five children survive him.

### CALVIN QUINCY NEWCOMBE

**A** HISTORY of Barton County would be altogether incomplete without a sketch of C. Q. Newcombe, who, although not one of the very early settlers of the county came here when the country was in a formative state and did much toward the development of the earlier years. Mr. Newcombe was born in Batavia, New York, in 1823, and came from Flint, Michigan, in January of 1876, locating a homestead and timber claim on the east half of section 24 in North Cheyenne township. For a short time after coming to Kansas he located his family at Peace (now Sterling) in Rice County. At the time of his coming he purchased two sections of land from the Santa Fe Railway Company, being sections 17 and 19 in Independent township, and was at that time one of the largest land holders in that locality. He paid \$2 an acre for this railroad land. Mr. Newcombe shipped the first full blood Short-horn cattle to Barton County, also the first full-blood Berkshire and Suffolk hogs. He shipped four car load of live stock from his old Michigan home, part of which was high grade and part fullblood stock. For one bull of his herd he was offered \$500 which was an enormous price at that time. Many of the better herds of the earlier days were here as a result of these shipments of fine stock in 1876. He shipped a very fine trotting mare to this county at the same time which was doubtless the best in the county at the time, having a record of 2:30. The name of the mare was Lady

Nellie Seely. In the earlier years of his life Mr. Newcombe gave special attention to mathematical studies and might be classed as an expert along that line. From the time he was nineteen years of age he was engaged in civil engineering work, being employed in constructing locks along the Erie Canal, railroad work of various kind and sewer work. It was but natural that within a few years after his location in Barton County, when his special qualifications became known, that he should be elected to the office of county surveyor, which office was tendered him by a very large vote in 1879. He served as county surveyor for three terms, moving to Great Bend at the time of his first election. His work as surveyor was of the very best. In 1889 he established a nursery business in Great Bend and conducted this for about twelve years. Mr. Newcombe has been a devoted member of the Masonic lodge since his early life and has the record of being a Knight Templar longer than any other man now living in the State of Kansas, having been a member of that degree of the order for nearly fifty-five years. At the time of the writing of this history, although well up in years, and physically feeble, his mind is clear and bright, and he delights to talk of his early day experiences in Barton County. Mr. Newcombe has three children, all of whom live in Great Bend and vicinity—Fred B., Sidney A. and Mrs. Millicent Treat.

### PATRICK BOUGHAN

**O**N March 18, 1818 the subject of this sketch was born in Limerick, Ireland, which fact is intimation enough as to why his parents named him Patrick. That he would still be a son of the "ould sod" is probable but for the fact that he had nothing to do with his removal to this country, the parents bringing him here with them when he was 4 years of age. And they located in Cincinnati where young Patrick grew up among Germans but retaining his Irish brogue. At the age of 16 he was making his own way in the world and got a job as fireman on the old Ohio & Mississippi railroad, now the Cincinnati and Southern. He remained with that road four years being promoted to the position of engineer and then went to work in that capacity for the M. K. & T., in Missouri. He was an engineer out of Sedalia and in 1886 when the Missouri Pacific was built across Kansas he was made a conductor by the officials of the road and sent to the front in charge of a construction train. He was in charge of one of the first trains into Hoisington and was

conductor of the first construction train to reach Great Bend, his runs being out of Council Grove. He is now conductor on the Missouri Pacific, the oldest man in point of service in this section of the state and will believe the oldest man in point of service on the road. He is a kind hearted, generous man, liked by every one who knows him and is inclined to hide his charities and his kindnesses under a gruffness that has earned for years no man in this section was better known than "Pat" Boughan and the only difference between the Pat of the old days and Cape Boughan of the present is that he is a little more generous than ever, liked the young folks more and has received promotion in title. He was married in 1840 in Anderson, Ind., to Miss Emma McDonald. Their children, born to the union are: John, Mrs. Jennie Bishop of Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. F. E. Foss of Eau Claire, Wis.; and Will, President of Hoisington. His wife died in this city, January 3, 1891.

## ARKANSAS VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY

WHEN you take the receiver from the hook on your telephone and within a few seconds are in conversation with a party sometimes miles away, did you ever stop to think how much money was required and how much time and energy had to be expended in order that you might enjoy this boon of modern civilization? Very few of us have done this and in writing the history of the Arkansas Valley Telephone Co., it will be seen that were it not for the fact the officers of this company are untiring in their efforts to make their system one of the best in the country, this section like other sections of the state would still be using the old style ring on, ring off phones. This company has kept just a little ahead of the demands made upon it for the best service and in October, 1911, the Great Bend Telephone Co., absorbed the system of the Larned Telephone Co., The Stafford Telephone Co., and later after these systems had been put under one management and were known as the Arkansas Valley Telephone Company's system the company purchased the Dodge City system and the Kinsley system and all these formerly small exchanges are now merged into one of the most extensive exchanges in the State of Kansas. The wires of this company branch out in every direction from Great Bend and this consolidation into one organization has resulted in the construction of continuous, uniform toll lines which greatly improved the utility of the telephone in Central Kansas and has reduced the rates to a minimum consistent with the best of service. In the fall of 1911 work was begun which resulted in the entire reconstruction of the company's exchange and equipment. This work was finished in June, 1912, and on June 15 the "cutover" was made and the old exchange was abandoned and Great Bend became the possessor of one of the most modern, up-to-date telephone exchanges in the country. This exchange employs in Great Bend in the neighborhood of two score people and during the construction work periods this number is greatly increased.

The first telephones that were installed in Great Bend were put in along in the eighties. These telephones were crude and not of much success. Later a company was organized and telephones put in all over town. By an order emanating from the supreme court regarding patents, all these instruments were taken out and burned. The town was without a telephone system again until a few years ago, when the late William Grimes started a new telephone company. The plant was originally an automatic affair, but was not a success.

Later a central energy system was installed.

In April, 1902, the Rock Telephone Company was organized, and toll lines built connecting the several towns in which The Lindas Lumber Company was operating lumber yards, for the purpose of placing the different yards in close touch with each other. In 1903 The Great Bend Telephone Company was organized taking over the properties of the Rock Telephone Company and the telephone interests of the Grimes company.

During all of this time the telephone interests of this section of the state, and especially those in and around Great Bend before the above mentioned consolidation was made, have been in the hands of Dr. H. E. Lindas and under his management the policy of the company has always been one of advancement. The result of the company's efforts are shown in the many up-to-date features of the system that are found in few towns of Great Bend's size. The system as now being operated has all its wires in cables, most of them being underground, and the remainder will be there as soon as conditions are such as to make it possible. The exchange is located in one of the most modern buildings in Great Bend at the corner of Lakin and Main streets. Every convenience for the employees of the company have been arranged for in laying out the different rooms for the switch board, operating rooms, offices, repair rooms, etc. Great Bend's history as far as the telephone part of it goes is far ahead of the times, but it is the intention, backed by a firm determination on this company's part, to give the people of this section of the state the best that is possible in telephone communication, in both local and long distance service.

The people have seen this company's interests grow from a private telephone system to its present high state of development and utility. This company has 4,500 subscribers all of whom are enabled at any time to talk with the outside world at a small cost and it must indeed be gratifying to Mr. Lindas, the manager of the company, to know that he has in his charge one of the best telephone systems in this part of the country. Dr. Lindas invites the public to call at the company's offices and secure permission and a guide to show them the many intricate details that make up a modern telephone system. This invitation is open to the public and those who accept it will find that they owe this company all the support they can possibly give them for keeping their system right up to the minute in this branch of public utilities.





Home of William Werhahn, Biography Page 111.



Residence of William Mull, Pawnee Rock Township.

In the write-up of Mr. Mull and family failure was made to mention all the members of the same. Grace May, the latest member of

the family was born March 17, 1912, and is the latest addition to the family. In 1918, 1919, and 1920



# Claflin

THE city is located on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, which was built during the years of 1885-86; the depot was built in 1887 and was occupied by M. A. Cummings as agent who remained as such until his retirement from railroad work a few years ago. The first business building was erected by J. H. Cannon on the site now occupied by the J. A. Watson Co. He carried a small stock of general merchandise and also had a bank in one part of the same building. After a few years Mr. Cannon sold his interests in the store to the Degens who enlarged the business and then in turn sold to B. J. Meyer & Co., who later sold to Watson & Tampier, Mr. Watson later taking over the interests of Mr. Tampier. From the time the depot was built the business enterprises were established to fill the needs of the people. The S. H. Chatten Lumber Co. soon unloaded a stock of building material and also coal. Jas. Williamson erected the first hotel in the city, the building now being occupied by the postoffice and the Clarion office. The livery and feed barn was built by E. J. Ingersoll and did a good business under the different managers until the automobile put the horse and buggy out of business. The first line of drugs was placed in a small building on the corner now occupied by the Evans-Mayo Mercantile Company by Dr. F. M. Campbell who remained in the business until his retirement from active business a few years ago. The Elmore Bros. put in the first stock of hardware and implements but after a few years the E. R. Moses Mercantile Co. placed a much larger stock and the former company sold out. G. A. Dusenberry at one time run the hardware on what is now the Miller corner. The Farmers and Merchants State Bank was organized about 1892 under the management of O. B. Looney who was at that time the cashier of the institution and remained as such until the

bank changed management. The present building was built expressly for the business. The Citizens State Bank was not organized until a few years ago but has built up a good business. The school house for District 89, was erected during the year 1889 and a few years ago an addition was built to it, but it being far too small to meet with the needs it was abandoned and during the year 1911 a new building costing \$17,000, was erected which is a valuable asset to the town. In the early days the Methodist and Christian churches were built and during the past few years the German Lutheran and Catholic were erected.

Claflin has today two as modern stores as any city of its size could ask for, two banks that are substantial, two hardware stores, two hotels that offer the best of accommodations to the traveling public, three lumber yards, five elevators and two mills, also all of the various other businesses that make up a city of its size.

Among the early settlers who still live in this vicinity are J. S. Dalziel, W. D. Fairbairn, Frank Resler and W. L. J. R. and E. O. Jordan. These people can tell of some of the early experiences that they had to contend with.

The present city administration is composed of the following gentlemen: Mayor, S. G. Earlenbaugh. Councilmen, W. B. Pickerill, W. C. Schumacher, D. J. Crowe, C. T. Mayo and J. W. Miller; City Treasurer, H. A. Staebler, Police Judge, G. C. Gilstrap.

The first mayor of the town was H. E. Hill, who at that time was connected with W. B. Pickerill in the grain business, and who is now living at Larned, Kansas, and is in the same business there. Those who followed him as mayor of the town are as follows: J. F. Evans, Hez. Gibler, C. T. Mayo, W. B. Pickerill, Clinton Gibler.

## BERT FANCHER

ONE of the important agencies in making Claflin a live town is the Clarion, the newspaper owned and edited by Bert Fancher of that city. The Clarion has had a long career which has never been more prosperous than it is at present. It fills its field creditably and there are few things of interest in that section of the country that are not duly chronicled by the Clarion. Under the able

position on the Daily Rustler. In 1907 he saw the chance which he had been looking for and bought the Claflin Clarion which he has since owned and edited. He was married in 1900 to Miss Lillie Sanner of Newton and they are the parents of two children, Gladys, 8 years of age and Gerald 6 years of age. Mr. Fancher is an active man in whatever he undertakes and is identified with the Elk, A. O. U. W. and Odd



BERT FANCHER

management of Mr. Fancher it is one of the best small town weeklies in the west and is an agency for good that the town could not get along without. Mr. Fancher is a thorough printer and the paper typographically is neat and well balanced. Mr. Fancher is yet a young man. He is 38 years of age. As a boy he learned the printing trade in the offices at Newton and in 1904 he came to Great Bend to take a

Fellow lodges. He is also postmaster at Claflin and is serving his second term in that position. He is popular in his community and has worked and stood for those things which would be of benefit to the section of the state in which he lives. The Clarion will undoubtedly continue to grow and prosper under his able management.

## IRA HAMILTON CLARK

CADIZ, Hamilton County, Ohio, was the birthplace of Ira Hamilton Clark, of Great Bend, who was born in that town, in 1866. At the age of 11 years he move to Harvey County, Kansas, with his parents in 1875. When twenty-one years of age he published the "Independent" at Walton, Kansas. He owned this paper for two years, 1886 and 1887 and then established the "Independent" at Frederick, Kansas, in 1888. March 1st, 1889, he became a resident of Barton County when he established the "Dispatch" at Hoisington, remaining there as editor and owner of that paper for ten years or until 1899. He has always been one of the prominent men of whatever community he may have lived in and in Hoisington he was city clerk for one term, and Republican township committeeman of Homestead township for five years. In 1899 he moved to Great Bend where he bought the Register. In connection with this paper he established the Daily Item in August, 1900. In 1908 he sold his two papers to the Tribune Publishing Co., and retired from newspaper work. In 1905 he was president of the Southwest Kansas Republican

Editorial Association and for six years was a member of the Congressional committee of the Seventh district. He served for two terms as member of the Board of Education of Great Bend. He was married June 27, 1889 to Nellie G. DeLong at Walton, Kansas, and they are the parents of seven children, Mary Hazel, now Mrs. Walter Healzer, Bessie Margaret, Ethel Gertrude, Flora Janette, Dwight DeLong, Edna Louise, Elizabeth Lorene. Since retiring from the newspaper profession Mr. Clark has been in the land business and his duties have been such as to prevent his taking as active a part in public affairs as in former years but his interest has never flagged and he may always be found working for those things which will be of benefit to his town and community. Quiet and unassuming he has done much to forward the progress of Barton County. As an editor he was a writer of force and ready and capable of defending and supporting the things he believed in. Barton County has been fortunate in having him as a citizen and that he has many years of usefulness still ahead of him.

## THE GREAT BEND TRIBUNE.

IT is with considerable satisfaction that The of Barton County and we hope that in the Tribune presents the Biographical History future the experience gained in arranging this edition may be utilized in the preparation of auxiliary volumes that will be a complete and accurate account of the county, its events of historical interest and of its citizens. No book of this sort can be as complete as its compilers would like to make it but as it is the book represents a great deal of detail work and expense.

The Tribune is one of the oldest institutions of Barton County, established in 1876, and in the years that have gone by has enjoyed its small share of prosperity and its years of adversity. Through it all the key-note of optimism and belief in the future of the county as expressed in every issue by its founder, Judge C. P. Townsley, has been preserved and The Tribune of today has seen the county become one of the richest and most substantial farming communities in the world and has seen this optimism and belief substantiated.

Elsewhere will be found an account of the founding and growth of the Tribune and the changes in ownership. The present owners and publishers are Will Townsley and Warren Baker.

Warren Baker was for a number of years superintendent of the city schools of Great Bend and later moved to Eldorado. Since 1909 he has had the business management of the paper. His family consists of his wife and two children, Vernon and Lucile.

Will Townsley is known to practically all the people of the county having been born and raised in Barton County and being raised in newspaper work. He is married. His family consists of his wife and baby daughter, Helen.

The standing of The Tribune is well described by the following article from "Retail Equipment," one of the larger trade journals of the country, which has been investigating trade conditions generally:

"The Tribune, of Great Bend, Kansas, is published every afternoon except Sunday, with a weekly edition on Friday. The tendency as well as the evolution of the modern newspaper toward a conservation of energy and effort is well exemplified in the career of the

Tribune. The Tribune was founded in 1876. Since then it has incorporated the Great Bend Weekly Register, Great Bend Daily Item, Great Bend Rustler and the Morning News. I do not know what were the character and characteristics of these defunct newspapers, but it is a universal law that the fittest survive, and in the survival of the Tribune amid the wreck of its contemporaries, we have really an excellent evening newspaper, edited by Mr. Will Townsley, one which covers the local field fully; that goes into the homes in Great Bend, is read and appreciated. Great Bend has a population of five thousand, and ninety per cent of these are subscribers and readers of the Tribune. On the six rural routes leading from Great Bend, eighty per cent of the people take the daily Tribune and fifteen per cent the weekly Tribune. In the other parts of Barton County and surrounding counties contiguous to Great Bend, the daily only reaches ten per cent of the population, while the weekly Tribune is taken in by fifty per cent. Of course the discrepancy is due to the diversity of rural postal delivery facilities. The Weekly is disappearing on the trail of the rural free delivery, and as a consequence of it Mr. Warren Baker, the business manager of the Tribune, informs me that the combined circulation of all the papers in the territory which his papers cover, including one weekly in Great Bend, is less than the combined circulation of the daily and weekly Tribune, with rates only one-fifth as much as the combined rates of the other papers. Barton County, I am told, is the greatest wheat county in the world, and its farmers are as a class correspondingly wealthy, owning their own homes and farms, there being one automobile to every eighteen of population, men, women and children. Great Bend has three department stores, ten grocery and provision stores, four banks with deposits amounting to two million dollars. There are other material indications of wealth and prosperity in abundance in Great Bend."

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#### Press Work.

In order to facilitate the issuing of this volume the press work has been done by Gunn & Wattson.

## INDEX

## A

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Adams, Williams Varner.....       | 172      |
| Albert .....                      | 79       |
| Albion Township .....             | 56       |
| Alefs, Jacob .....                | 305      |
| Amend Brothers .....              | 67       |
| Amerine, Fred B.....              | 100      |
| Andress, Charles .....            | 251, 252 |
| Arkansas Valley Telephone Co..... | 310      |

## B

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Baldwin, Lutellus .....          | 251      |
| Bales, John Frank.....           | 84       |
| Banta, Judge D. A.....           | 286, 287 |
| Banta, Dan Worth.....            | 256      |
| Baptist Church, Great Bend.....  | 235      |
| Barbecue .....                   | 60       |
| Barton County Flour Mill.....    | 288      |
| Batchman, Albert Fred.....       | 186      |
| Button, Chas. E.....             | 142      |
| Bauer, George .....              | 169      |
| Bauer, John C.....               | 120      |
| Beaver Township .....            | 55       |
| Belt, Francis .....              | 161      |
| Berscheidt, John .....           | 84       |
| Bessler, George Lewis.....       | 173      |
| Bidleman, Robert Arthur.....     | 136      |
| Bird, Daniel Green.....          | 105      |
| Birdseye View of Great Bend..... | 270      |
| Blizzard of 1871.....            | 41       |
| Blood Creek Settlers.....        | 56       |
| Boese, John .....                | 128      |
| Bosse, J. H. D.....              | 209-211  |
| Bosse, Milton .....              | 210      |
| Both, Julius .....               | 106, 107 |
| Bowman, William H.....           | 164      |
| Boughan, Patrick .....           | 309      |
| B. P. O. E.....                  | 277      |
| Brack, Peter .....               | 280      |
| Brack, Jacob B.....              | 81       |
| Brack, Peter C.....              | 81       |
| Brewer, Thomas Henderson.....    | 159      |
| Brinkman Family .....            | 77       |
| Brinkman, J. V.....              | 77       |
| Brinkman, Mrs. J. V.....         | 77       |
| Brinkman, Chas. ....             | 78       |
| Brinkman, Louis .....            | 78       |
| Brown, Orris Albert .....        | 128, 129 |
| Brougher, Ira D.....             | 141      |
| Buckland, Edward Grant.....      | 102      |
| Buffalo Bill .....               | 152      |
| Buffalo Township .....           | 51       |
| Building Court House.....        | 225      |
| Bunting, W. R.....               | 296      |
| Batchman, Frank N.....           | 303      |
| Byers, Hugh B.....               | 302      |

## C

|                                          |          |
|------------------------------------------|----------|
| Campbell, Henry James .....              | 306      |
| Caraway, Leslie James.....               | 192      |
| Catholic Churches .....                  | 58, 235  |
| Census of 1872 .....                     | 30       |
| Central Normal College.....              | 230      |
| Chapman, E. L.....                       | 279      |
| Chapman, G. L.....                       | 65, 278  |
| Christian Church, Great Bend .....       | 235      |
| Christian Church, Pawnee Rock .....      | 154      |
| Christian Church, Hoisington.....        | 196      |
| Cheyenne, Bottoms .....                  | 295      |
| Cheyenne Township .....                  | 56       |
| Citizens State Bank, Ellinwood .....     | 207      |
| Citizens National Bank, Great Bend ..... | 249      |
| Clarence Township .....                  | 53       |
| Clark, Ira H.....                        | 313, 63  |
| Clark, James W.....                      | 47       |
| Claflin .....                            | 312      |
| Clements, Archie B.....                  | 48       |
| Cleveland Township.....                  | 56       |
| Cole, Elrick C.....                      | 60, 75   |
| Cole, Thomas Oakley.....                 | 127      |
| Comanche Township .....                  | 54       |
| Comfort, Samuel B.....                   | 303      |
| Congregational Church .....              | 233, 262 |
| Connett, Dr. A. H.....                   | 281, 282 |
| Cook, A. S.....                          | 66       |
| Cook, Henry C.....                       | 94       |
| Cornelius, Roy .....                     | 202      |
| Coss, John Edward.....                   | 84       |
| Coursing Club .....                      | 253      |
| Court House Views .....                  | 213-215  |
| Crane, George W.....                     | 297      |

## D

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Damm, Louis .....           | 301            |
| Dawson, O. W.....           | 75, 76         |
| Deckert, Andrew J.....      | 123, 124, 268  |
| Deckert, Peter J.....       | 71             |
| Denbo, John W.....          | 163            |
| Dewey, Ed. W.....           | 19             |
| Diffenbacher, C. F.....     | 200            |
| Dirks, Jacob A.....         | 71             |
| Dirks, J. P.....            | 168            |
| Dodge Family .....          | 80             |
| Dodge, E. J.....            | 21-24, 80, 172 |
| Donovan, John .....         | 97             |
| Drehle, Henry .....         | 111            |
| Dry Creek Stock Farm .....  | 119            |
| Dunkow, Fred .....          | 178            |
| Duncan Bottling Works ..... | 280            |
| Dundee Valley Farm .....    | 201            |



## E

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Earliest Explorations .....         | 7        |
| Elks Building .....                 | 276      |
| Ellinwood .....                     | 203-211  |
| Elliot, Mrs. F. E. ....             | 132      |
| Ernsting, G. H. ....                | 204      |
| Essmiller, Diedrich .....           | 138      |
| Essmiller, Henry .....              | 175-176  |
| Essmiller, William .....            | 108      |
| Eureka Golden Rule Stock Farm ..... | 193      |
| Eureka Township .....               | 53       |
| Everitt, John .....                 | 99       |
| Everitt, Henry Smith .....          | 164, 165 |
| Evers, Otis .....                   | 190      |
| Evers, John .....                   | 66       |
| Evers, Boyd .....                   | 167      |
| Ewing, James R. ....                | 174, 175 |
| Ewing, F. H. ....                   | 181      |

## F

|                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Fairview Township .....              | 55       |
| Fairfield Farm .....                 | 301      |
| Fancher, Bert .....                  | 312, 313 |
| Farmers & Merchants State Bank ..... | 156      |
| Fee, William James .....             | 125      |
| Fenn, August .....                   | 99       |
| Fire Company .....                   | 260      |
| First Christmas Tree .....           | 24       |
| First National Bank .....            | 278      |
| First Settlers .....                 | 240      |
| Fish, Arthur L. ....                 | 126      |
| Flick, James H. ....                 | 160, 161 |
| Fort Zarah .....                     | 17       |
| Fossil, Mr. ....                     | 274      |
| Frost, Luther .....                  | 25       |
| Frey, Kate A. ....                   | 292      |
| Frey, Louis P. ....                  | 292      |
| Fruit, Henry .....                   | 44       |
| Fugate, James M. ....                | 10       |

## G

|                                           |          |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| Gagelman, William .....                   | 137      |
| Gagelman, Henry .....                     | 304      |
| Gainsford, Jim .....                      | 242, 243 |
| Gallon, John P. ....                      | 185      |
| Geil, Andrew .....                        | 165, 166 |
| Geil, George Adam .....                   | 109, 110 |
| German American State Bank .....          | 91       |
| German Lutheran Church, Ellinwood .....   | 208      |
| German Lutheran Church, Great Bend .....  | 236      |
| Gibson, Jim .....                         | 151      |
| Gilson, Chris .....                       | 283      |
| Golden Grain Farm .....                   | 111      |
| Government Building .....                 | 275      |
| Grant Township .....                      | 56       |
| Great Bend .....                          | 212      |
| Great Bend City Hall .....                | 220      |
| Great Bend High School .....              | 231      |
| Great Bend Hotel .....                    | 71       |
| Great Bend Ice, Fuel and Storage Co. .... | 293      |
| Great Bend Mills .....                    | 291      |
| Great Bend Officials .....                | 213-221  |
| Great Bend Town Company .....             | 22       |
| Great Bend Township .....                 | 52       |
| Greenwood Farm .....                      | 114      |
| Gruber, Anton .....                       | 101      |

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Gruber, John .....    | 100 |
| Gunn, Charles L. .... | 288 |
| Gunn, Levi .....      | 95  |
| Gwinn, Samuel H. .... | 305 |

## H

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Hadders, George R. ....        | 137              |
| Hart, George W. ....           | 180              |
| Hartman, Henry A. C. ....      | 201              |
| Hartshorn, Lucy Hull .....     | 187              |
| Hartshorn, William W. ....     | 187              |
| Hedrick, Sevier H. ....        | 104              |
| Heizer .....                   | 78               |
| Heizer Creamery .....          | 79               |
| Heizer Diary .....             | 262-267          |
| Heizer, D. N. ....             | 20, 283, 255-261 |
| Herald .....                   | 158              |
| Hitchcock, Frank .....         | 221              |
| Hoge, John Allison .....       | 135              |
| Hoisington .....               | 194-202          |
| Hoisington, A. J. ....         | 43, 281          |
| Hoisington, Incidents of ..... | 63, 64           |
| Holmes, Clarence E. ....       | 72               |
| Holmes, Harry Hoard .....      | 176, 177         |
| Homestead Township .....       | 55               |
| Hooper, Charles A. ....        | 277              |
| Howell, Charles B. ....        | 189              |
| Hulme, George H. ....          | 290              |

## I

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Independent Township ..... | 56    |
| Indian Fight .....         | 10-14 |
| Inman, Major Henry .....   | 12    |
| Inman's Tales .....        | 151   |
| Irrigation .....           | 38    |

## J

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Johnson, Amos .....     | 82       |
| Johnson, Chris .....    | 114, 115 |
| Johnson, Thomas B. .... | 117, 118 |
| Jurgensen, Hans .....   | 109      |

## K

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Keenan Estate .....         | 121      |
| Keenan, Michael James ..... | 125, 126 |
| Kerr, W. H. ....            | 70       |
| Kidder, Homer H. ....       | 14       |
| Klepper, Nicholas W. ....   | 85       |
| Koopman, Christian .....    | 127      |
| Kramer, Frank .....         | 47       |

## L

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Lady Barton .....         | 253      |
| Lakin Township .....      | 52       |
| Langford, Abraham L. .... | 104      |
| Leader, Ellinwood .....   | 206      |
| Lewis, John F. ....       | 45, 74   |
| Lewis, William M. ....    | 163      |
| Le Roy, Mrs. Katie .....  | 112, 113 |
| Lile, John .....          | 120      |
| Lind Hospital .....       | 200, 201 |
| Lippincott, Grant .....   | 158, 159 |
| Logan Township .....      | 55       |
| Logan, D. R. ....         | 304      |
| Lowrey's Island .....     | 12       |
| Luse, D. C. ....          | 253      |
| Ludwig, Fred C. ....      | 242      |

## M

|                                               |            |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Maher, Samuel .....                           | 48, 222    |
| Maneth, Ferdinand C. ....                     | 188, 261   |
| Marker On Santa Fe Trail .....                | 151        |
| Mausolf, August .....                         | 130        |
| Mausolf, John A. ....                         | 140        |
| Maybach, William H. ....                      | 134        |
| Mayors of Great Bend. ....                    | 270        |
| Meeklem, L. G. ....                           | 68         |
| Mennonite Colony .....                        | 50         |
| Merritt-Schwier Creamery Co. ....             | 96         |
| Merten, Albert N. ....                        | 81         |
| Merten, Frank .....                           | 103        |
| Merten, Robert .....                          | 241        |
| Methodist Church, Great Bend. ....            | 234        |
| Methodist Church, Hoisington. ....            | 197        |
| Methodist Church, Pawnee Rock. ....           | 149        |
| Meyer, August .....                           | 184        |
| Meyer, Henry .....                            | 192        |
| Miller, Daniel, Sr. ....                      | 307        |
| Miller, Henry .....                           | 139        |
| Miller, Jake .....                            | 69         |
| Missouri Pacific Shops .....                  | 197        |
| Mitchell, Tom .....                           | 88         |
| Monument Day, Pawnee Rock. ....               | 155        |
| Morris, T. L. ....                            | 21, 162    |
| Morrison, John Tullis. ....                   | 307        |
| Morrison Hotel .....                          | 71         |
| Moses, Amasa C. and Family. ....              | 86-93      |
| Moses Brothers .....                          | 87         |
| Moses Brothers' Mill. ....                    | 90         |
| Moses, Arthur H. ....                         | 91         |
| Moses, Cassius M. ....                        | 92, 240    |
| Moses, C. L. ....                             | 88         |
| Moses, E. W. ....                             | 88, 89, 91 |
| Moses, Lincoln E. ....                        | 93         |
| Moses, Seward E. ....                         | 92         |
| Moses, Will .....                             | 91         |
| Moses Homestead .....                         | 92         |
| Moses, George N. ....                         | 27, 48     |
| Moses, E. R., Jr. ....                        | 248        |
| Moses, E. R., Sr. ....                        | 247, 248   |
| Moses, E. R. Mercantile Co., Great Bend. .... | 245        |
| Moses, E. R. Mer. Co., Hoisington. ....       | 198, 246   |
| Mount Aubrey .....                            | 12         |
| Mull, William .....                           | 118        |
| Murphy, Patrick Emmet .....                   | 306        |
| McDonald, James Thomas. ....                  | 182        |
| McDougal, William S. ....                     | 155        |
| McFarren, S. J. ....                          | 61, 62     |
| McGill, Tobias .....                          | 97         |
| McKinney, Frank Gillmore. ....                | 186        |
| McMullen, John .....                          | 206        |

## N

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Neweombe, Calvin Quincy. .... | 309      |
| New Jerusalem Church. ....    | 119      |
| Newspapers .....              | 60       |
| New Years Reception .....     | 238, 239 |
| Nimocks, George W. ....       | 300      |
| Nuttleman, Fred .....         | 289      |

## O

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Odd Fellows Cake .....           | 237 |
| Officials of Barton County. .... | 35  |
| O-Ton-Sone-Var .....             | 152 |

## P

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Olmitz .....                          | 79       |
| Otte, William .....                   | 166, 167 |
| Otte, William Christ. ....            | 105      |
| Pascage, John West .....              | 271, 272 |
| Pascoe, Paul James. ....              | 183      |
| Patent for Great Bend. ....           | 270      |
| Patterson, Mrs. Isabel .....          | 141      |
| Pawnee Rock .....                     | 145-164  |
| Pawnee Rock Park. ....                | 148      |
| Pawnee Rock State Bank. ....          | 157      |
| Pawnee Rock Township. ....            | 54       |
| Peoples State Bank, Ellinwood. ....   | 207, 208 |
| Peoples State Bank, Hoisington. ....  | 198, 199 |
| Plankenhorn, Louis .....              | 133, 134 |
| Pleasant Dale .....                   | 297-299  |
| Political History .....               | 58       |
| Post Office, Great Bend .....         | 274, 275 |
| Powell, Alfred L. ....                | 82       |
| Presbyterian Church, Great Bend. .... | 235      |

## Q

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Quivera ..... | 7 |
|---------------|---|

## R

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Railroad Y. M. C. A. .... | 199, 200 |
| Rock Hotel .....          | 161      |
| Rogers, William H. ....   | 93, 94   |
| Ruhe Bros .....           | 177      |
| Russell, W. H. ....       | 137      |

## S

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Santa Fe Depot .....            | 267      |
| Santa Fe Trail .....            | 9        |
| Schaeffer, Henry .....          | 188      |
| Schmidt, Paul .....             | 85       |
| Schneck, Iome .....             | 170      |
| Schneck, Paul Francis. ....     | 169      |
| Schneck, Melissa Ann .....      | 169      |
| Schneider, Carl .....           | 268      |
| Schneider, Joseph .....         | 83       |
| Schenthal, .....                | 297-299  |
| Schools of Barton County. ....  | 231      |
| Schuelke, Frederick .....       | 93       |
| Schultz, Christian S. ....      | 119      |
| Schultz, Henry C. ....          | 123      |
| Schultz, Samuel C. ....         | 122      |
| Schwier, Henry .....            | 162      |
| Seeley George L. ....           | 293      |
| Seibert, Andrew .....           | 361      |
| Selle, Gustav .....             | 170      |
| Shafet, Max C. ....             | 301      |
| Shaffer, Frank P. ....          | 101      |
| Shaw, Jim .....                 | 88       |
| Shaw, Dr. Simeon .....          | 289      |
| Sheriffs, First Seven .....     | 217      |
| Sheriffs of Barton County. .... | 217      |
| Smith, Edward L. ....           | 206      |
| Smith, Newton Phillip .....     | 169, 170 |
| Soderstrom, J. W. ....          | 172, 173 |
| Sod House, Last in County ..... | 259      |
| South Bend Township .....       | 54       |
| Southern Hotel .....            | 269      |
| Sowards, Marion F. ....         | 291      |
| Sowards, W. W. ....             | 44       |
| Spaniol, Francis .....          | 116      |

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Sportsmen's Association .....    | 271     |
| Stone, T. L. ....                | 269     |
| Street Scene, Great Bend.....    | 223     |
| St. John's Episcopal Church..... | 233     |
| St. Mary's Academy.....          | 230     |
| St. Rose Hospital.....           | 226-230 |

## T

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Tammen, Herman .....           | 113        |
| Taylor, Richard .....          | 273        |
| Thies, Joseph .....            | 143        |
| Tilton, John F. ....           | 243, 244   |
| Towers, George .....           | 56         |
| Townsley, C. P. ....           | 61, 308    |
| Township Elections .....       | 58, 59     |
| Trauer, Fred .....             | 124        |
| Trester, Bert .....            | 104        |
| Tribune .....                  | 61, 314    |
| Troillet, Joseph H. ....       | 69         |
| Tucker, George Washington..... | 129, 130   |
| Tucker, John Oliver.....       | 132, 133   |
| Tyler, Edwin .....             | 37, 42, 95 |
| Tyler, Mollie .....            | 237        |

## U

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Union Township, .....       | 55  |
| United Brethren Church..... | 196 |
| Unruh, Benjamin H.....      | 72  |
| Unruh, Henry Benjamin.....  | 136 |
| Unruh, Tobias B.....        | 302 |

## W

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Walnut Creek .....             | 11       |
| Walnut Creek Mill.....         | 224      |
| Walnut Township .....          | 53       |
| Walter, Joe .....              | 65       |
| Warner, William T.....         | 163      |
| Warren, Fred W.....            | 24       |
| Warnken, Jost .....            | 183      |
| Weathers, Josiah Clinton ..... | 131      |
| Weltmer, Don A.....            | 290      |
| Wemmergren, A. A.....          | 221      |
| Werhahn, William .....         | 111, 311 |
| Wheatland Township .....       | 55       |
| White, Thomas Henry.....       | 178      |
| Williams, Steven J.....        | 164      |
| Willis, P. H.....              | 161      |
| Wilson, George P.....          | 193      |
| Winget, James Sheldon.....     | 191      |
| Winstead, T. E.....            | 285      |
| Winstead, W. W.....            | 66       |
| Witte, Henry .....             | 115      |
| Wolf, Frederick Henry.....     | 116, 117 |
| Wolf's Mill .....              | 205      |
| Woodburn, Gustavus A.....      | 83       |
| Worden, C. B.....              | 93       |

## Y

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Yeo, Samuel Gibson ..... | 83  |
| York, Eldridge .....     | 136 |

## Z

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Zieber, Wilson M..... | 173, 174 |
| Zutavern, Louis ..... | 216      |















